Hafa Adai!

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CPA says it has no control over Cape Air issues. PAGE 2
CUC accuses DOJ of overreach in its court filings. PAGE 6

Typhoon watch in effect on Rota

» Tinian and Saipan on tropical storm watch

Tropical Depression 11W was upgraded to a tropical storm yesterday afternoon and is now named Tropical Storm Halong. Gov. Eloy S. Inos has declared Typhoon Condition II for the island of Rota and Tropical Storm Condition III for the islands of Saipan and Tinian as of 8pm last night. A typhoon watch is now in effect for Guam and Rota.

Typhoon conditions including destructive winds of 75 mph or more are possible within the next 48 hours, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

As of 7pm last night, the center of Tropical Storm Halong was located by radar about 190 miles east-southeast of Rota and about 200 miles southeast of Tinian and Saipan

See TYPHOON on Page 4

Saipan casino deal OK on Thursday or Friday

» Contentious issues still being ironed out
» Public's patience sought on release of pension checks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With some contentious issues still being ironed out, the Lottery Commission and Best Sunshine International Ltd. rescheduled their meeting yesterday afternoon to Thursday and Friday wherein they are expected to finalize a minimum $2 billion casino development agreement.

That will pave the way for the $30 million payment of retirees' deferred 25 percent pension and interest on former

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FOR NON-FILING OF 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OPA: 70 govt officials penalized

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Nearly 21 percent or 70 of 334 CNMI government officials who are required to file a statement of financial interest for 2013 continue to accrue a $10 daily penalty for failing to comply with the filing requirement two months since the May 31 deadline.

The total accrued penalty is $42,000 as of today.

Data obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday from the Office of the Public Auditor shows that nine other government

See OPA on Page 4

A NEW LOOK

A lifeguard near the pool is seen through the lobby of the newly renovated Coral Ocean Point yesterday. The re-opening celebration following a $4.4-million renovation, however, has been held off a few times since April by E-Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

INSIDE

ASIA
Philippine President Benigno Aquino III is confident that many will carry on his reforms. ➤ PAGE 15

WORLD
Hamas and Israel blames each other for an explosion that killed at least nine children. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Reality TV's newest trend: Nudity is hot, no longer confined to late-night cable. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

UNTIL THE NEXT BLOOM HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A young woman is surrounded by fallen flame tree flowers on the grounds of the NMI Museum of History and Culture. The summer is almost over, giving way not only to rainy days but also to typhoon season. As of last night, Tropical Storm Halong continues to strengthen and a typhoon warning is in effect for Rota while a tropical storm warning is in effect for Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

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CPA: It has no control over Cape Air operational issues

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

While the Commonwealth Ports Authority has received public concerns and phone calls in regards to Cape Air's recent run of cancelled flights, CPA acting director Ed Mendiola said the agency does not interfere in the business operations of airlines and that it only has a tenant relationship with them.

In an interview yesterday, Mendiola acknowledged the public complaints as a "legitimate concern" but emphasized CPA's role at the airport is separate from Cape Air's operations.

"Damage on aircraft and how soon they repair it [is] really not [our responsibility]. We provide the facility for them, they fly in," Mendiola said.

He noted that Cape Air is not required to report to CPA on mechanical or technical issues, and noted that while Cape Air has a ground handling service crew, he is not sure if they have a mechanic team on site.

"They handle their own [operations]," Mendiola said.

He mentioned that, like the public, he sometimes finds things out about Cape Air's issues through the newspaper.

Throughout the interview, he described the relationship CPA has with its airlines as "good" and cooperative but that ultimately CPA has "no control" over these airlines' operations.

"We have control of the airport. Now if we see something that is going to affect the safety of others, we can step in and say 'that is unsafe' and maybe do something about it, but we're not really in the business to do so. We're here to make sure that the airport is safe to use and convenient for the traveling passengers," Mendiola said.

When asked about Rose Hocog's petition that calls on the CPA board and other government and federal agencies to demand improvements in Cape Air's service and aircraft, Mendiola said the CPA remains neutral in such matters.

"We try not to get involved in those things," he said.

When asked how a concerned public could help airlines improve their services if not through government agencies, Mendiola said he was not in the position to suggest these means.

Cape Air/ United is the sole airline offering flights between Guam, Rota, and Saipan.

Mendiola said he received a call the day before asking about the status of Cape Air but was only able to refer the caller to Cape Air's phone number.

In an email response to this reporter's queries about passenger compensation, aircraft, and technical issues, a Cape Air spokeperson referred *Saipan Tribune* to a statement United Airlines released Monday.

The media release, which was published in the Tuesday edition of the *Saipan Tribune,* did not elaborate on the mechanical issues faced by the Cape Air but assured safe passage when flights are up and running.

Manglona withdraws her show cause order against Quichocho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona withdrew yesterday her order to show cause against disbarred lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho.

Manglona withdrew the order and also quashed the July 8, 2014, bench warrant she issued against Quichocho, after the latter posted a $1,200 cash bail.

Quichocho also consented to release the $1,200 cash bail to satisfy the $1,200 sanction of legal fees incurred by Ming Yang Corp., owner of Ming Yang Market.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to release the bail to attorney Mark A. Scoggins, counsel for Ming Yang Corp., in full satisfaction of the sanction against Quichocho.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to close the case.

Last June 30, Manglona ordered Quichocho to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt for refusing to pay sanctions for $1,200 in attorney's fees.

The order to show cause hearing was set for July 7.

Quichocho failed to appear at the hearing. Manglona then issued a bench warrant for Quichocho's arrest.

Manglona issued the $1,200 sanction order against Quichocho on June 16 for his late submission of his opposition to Ming Yang Corp.'s motion to dismiss a lawsuit. Part of the sanction included paying Ming Yang Corp.'s legal fees in preparing for a motion.

Manglona ordered Quichocho to pay the fees no later than June 25, 2014, which he failed to do.

Quichocho served as counsel for William A. Tracy, who sued several businesses, including Ming Yang, for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb.7. The case has since been dismissed.

Saipan Mayor's Office to get a new bucket truck

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has already received its allotted $100,000 for the purchase of heavy equipment and they plan to buy a bucket truck with it, according to Mayor Marian Tudela yesterday.

She noted that $510 of the $100,000 was taken for contractual advertising purposes.

"We are working on purchasing equipment and getting other contractors for purchasing equipment that we need," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune*.

Her special adviser, Henry Hofschneider, said the check for the bucket truck is now ready "and the company from whom we will buy the bucket truck will be decided within the next two weeks or so."

Hofschneider said the contract is now being routed through several government offices.

He said they would use the truck to prune and remove old tree branches.

"The staff is using hand pruners and a chainsaw, which limits the ability to do the work faster and safer. We don't use a ladder and the staff have undergone safety training and have received certificates so they know to be more careful," he said.

Other equipment

According to Hofschneider, they are also looking at getting a smaller grader. The mayor's office's two large graders are down and are beyond repair.

Hofschneider said they are also looking at acquiring two dump trucks and two backhoes.

"We're down to one backhoe and in order for us to continue maintaining secondary roads, we have to continue renting," Hofschneider said.

According to him, they are making good progress in buying heavy equipment using the $400,000 they got from the Office of Insular Affairs earlier this year.

Tudela also said that they are in the process of notifying the director of Division of Procurement and Supply to issue a notice of award to the sole bidder of riding mowers.

"The reason of purchasing these heavy equipments is for our office to do our work diligently and better, so we're working on it," she said.

A.M. Best affirms ratings of Century Insurance Guam

HONG KONG (BUSINESS WIRE)—A.M. Best has affirmed the financial strength rating of B++ (Good) and the issuer credit rating of "bbb+" of Century Insurance Company (Guam) Limited. The outlook of CIC Guam's ratings is stable.

The ratings of CIC Guam reflect its solid risk-based capitalization, continuous favorable operating results and improved claim management revision. The ratings also acknowledge the support the company receives from THC, its parent company.

CIC Guam's risk-adjusted capitalization, as measured by Best's Capital Adequacy Ratio, is supportive of its current ratings. CIC Guam's capitalization level has consistently improved as a result of CIC Guam's favorable underwriting and investment performance in recent years. The company's consistent positive retained earnings are a reflection of its emphasis on prudent underwriting and efforts to improve its claims management, along with its diversified investment strategy.

Partially offsetting these positive rating factors are the competitive landscape in Guam, CIC Guam's relatively high expense ratio and its volatile loss reserve development history.

Guam's general insurance industry continues to be very competitive. CIC Guam's premium declined in 2013 due to stricter underwriting and price competition, which caused a number of non-renewals. In addition, the company in July 2013 stopped writing marine insurance, construction bonds and other high risk policies, which further contributed to the company's premium decline.

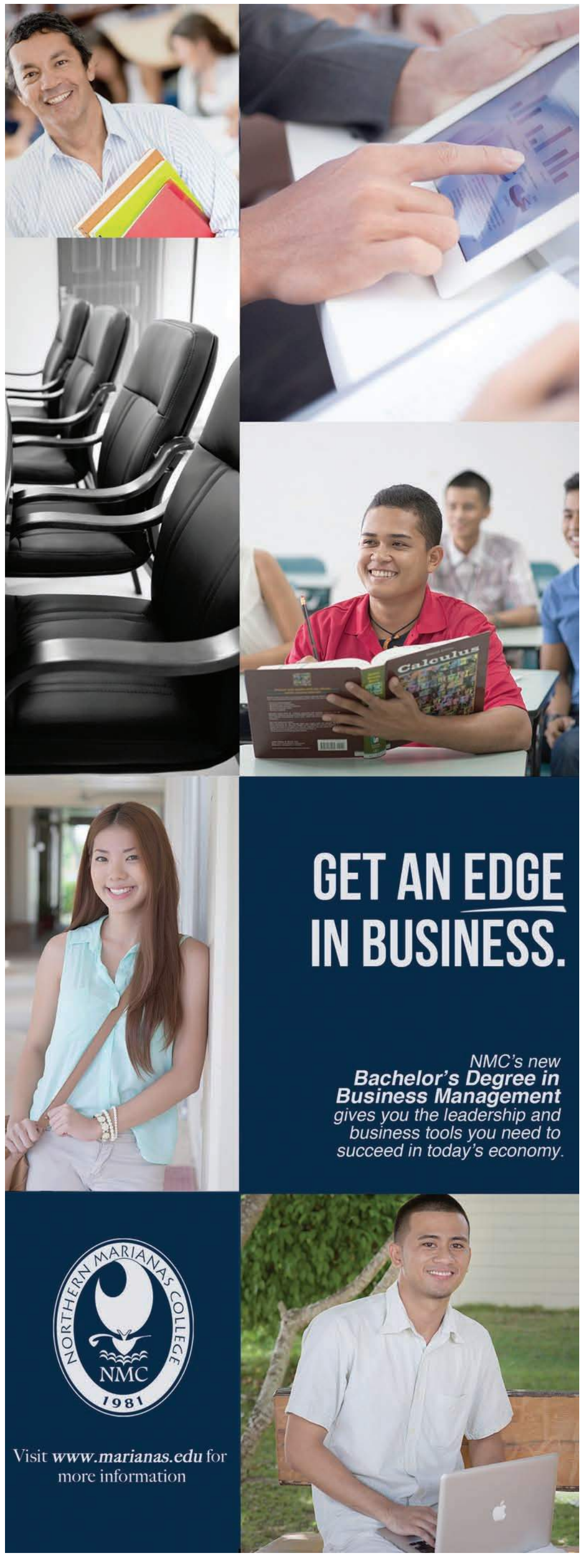
Future positive rating actions could occur if CIC Guam shows continuous improvement in its operating results and expense management while regaining its market share and enhancing loss-reserve adequacy.

Meanwhile, A.M. Best downgraded the FSR to B (Fair) from B+ (Good) and ICR to "bb+" from "bbb-" of Century Insurance Company, Ltd. (CIC Saipan). The outlook for the ICR has been revised to negative from stable, while the FSR remains stable. Concurrently, A.M. Best has withdrawn the ratings due to management's request to no longer participate in A.M. Best's interactive process. A.M. has also

The rating actions reflect CIC Saipan's unfavorable underwriting performance since 2012 that resulted in operating losses and overall declines in its risk-adjusted capitalization. In 2013, the company's net loss was primarily due to major losses incurred in the motor, general liability and workers' compensation lines. Although CIC Saipan has implemented multiple measures to restore its profitability, the ongoing challenges are expected to weigh on the underwriting results in the near term, given the economic decline in the territory.

The ratings take into consideration CIC Saipan's supportive risk-adjusted capitalization, its leading position in the non-life insurance market in CNMI and improved claim management revision. The ratings also acknowledge the support the company receives from its parent, Tan Holdings Corp.

Ratings are communicated to rated entities prior to publication, and unless stated otherwise, the ratings were not amended subsequent to that communication. ***(PR)***



Senate panel chair wants budget hearings on 3 islands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday she plans to hold budget hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota during the first and second week of August, not only to "assess" agencies' current expenditures but also "validate" their new budget submissions, barely two months before the budget deadline.

"The Senate has to do its own legwork. There won't be shortcuts," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at her office.

This, despite some lawmakers' suggestions that the Senate need not duplicate the public hearings that the House Ways and Means Committee had already conducted for the $134 million fiscal year 2015 budget.

"By third week of August, the committee would be ready with the bill, for full Senate action," Taimanao said.

Taimanao said there will be Senate changes in some agencies' appropriations.

Once the Senate amends the House budget bill, the measure goes back to the House for either acceptance or rejection of these changes.

Taimanao said more than likely, there will be a conference committee, which will be tasked to come up with a House-Senate "compromise" budget bill.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said Tinian saw a $400,000 decrease in the proposed 2015 funding, compared to 2014. Tinian senators want to restore that funding or at least come closer to its current budget.

If no new budget is in place by Oct. 1, the CNMI government would have to shut down and lawmakers' salaries would be suspended until they pass a spending plan.

Some agencies, such as the Public School System, have turned to the Senate for more funding compared to the House's proposal.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said in a July 25 letter to Taimanao that the House's proposal of a $32.279 million budget for PSS disregarded their request for an additional $1.6 million.

"The members of the House did not act on our request and therefore, I am requesting your utmost attention and support to review our request and grant us the additional budget for next fiscal year," Sablan told Taimanao.

Federal agents arrest suspected 'ice' supplier

Federal agents arrested yesterday a man who was allegedly engaged in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan last year.

Zhaosheng Zeng was arrested after a sealed indictment was filed in federal court on July 22. The indictment was unsealed yesterday afternoon following Zeng's arrest.

The indictment charged Zeng with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and three counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

According to the indictment, from May 9, 2013, through June 19, 2013, Zeng intentionally conspired with persons to distribute "ice."

Zeng also allegedly intentionally distributed "ice" on May 9, 16, and 19, 2013.

At a hearing yesterday afternoon, Zeng, who appeared with court-appointed counsel David Banes, pleaded not guilty of all charges.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Oct. 6, 2014.

A detention hearing will be conducted on Friday at 9am.

Zeng was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Guam man's death ruled a homicide

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam authorities say a man whose body was found in his hair salon over the weekend was the victim of a homicide.

Pacific Daily News reports that 62-year-old Nick Tolentino was the owner of the Hair Plus by Nick salon in Tamuning.

The Guam medical examiner's office says the cause of death was multiple stab wounds.

Tolentino was last seen alive on Saturday, July 26, between the hours of 3pm and 4pm by associates within the Hafa Adai Exchange annex.

WAP program suspended indefinitely

The CNMI Energy Division of the Department of Public works wishes to inform the general public that it is suspending services under the Weatherization Assistance Program effective July 28, 2014, until further notice.

For additional information, you may contact its office at 664-4480/1 or fax 664-4483, Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Funding opportunity for this program is made possible through a grant by the US Department of Energy. ***(Office of the Governor)***

DHS awards Guam $1.3M in federal grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the Department of Homeland Security has awarded $1,313,830 in federal grant assistance to the Government of Guam.

DHS awarded $854,000 to Guam Homeland Security for the State Homeland Security Program. This grant will be used to support GHS implement strategies to address identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

DHS also awarded $468,830 to the Port Authority of Guam for the Port Security Grant Program. This grant will assist the port support its transportation infrastructure security activities to implement Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and facility security plans.

"These funds will support our government agencies implement plans and contingencies to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism or other natural disasters that may affect Guam," said Bordallo. "These grants are part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's ongoing efforts to ensure that our communities are safe and ready to respond in times of crisis. I look forward to these funds being utilized to benefit our island." ***(PR)***

OPA

From Page 1

officials filed on or after June 1.

Four of them paid the $10 daily fine, and five were given a waiver.

Wilma Atalig, auditor at OPA's Ethics and Compliance Unit, said yesterday that the Department of Finance secretary certified that 334 government officials were required to file a 2013 statement of financial interest and 70 of them continue to accrue a $10 penalty for every single day they fail to file their statement.

Under the Government Ethics Code Act, all elected and appointed CNMI officials, judicial officers, and executive department heads or directors are required to file a statement of financial interest. These include appointees to boards, commissions, councils or task forces.

Atalig said the total number of filing as of the initial May 1 deadline was 196, including one that was received via mail and postmarked before the initial deadline.

There is a 30-day grace period, however. Atalig said there were 59 late-filers or those who filed after the May 1 initial deadline and up to the May 31 final deadline, but were not assessed a penalty.

The bulk of late-filers are from boards and commissions.

Unlike many other jurisdictions and countries, CNMI law does not make financial statements public. The assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with the consent of the filer.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in an open letter in May that since public officials make decisions that affect the financial interest of everyone in the CNMI, "it is only right that we should all know how those decisions affect the pocketbooks of public officials."

"Open disclosure will not stop officials from making decisions based on their own financial self-interest. But at least we will be able to see it," he said.

He said based on research, courts have generally not seen any constitutional right to privacy when it comes to the finances of public officials. Sablan said there are some 30,000 people in the federal government who are required by law to file public financial disclosure reports. These officials are in all three branches of government—the legislative, executive, and judicial. He is among those.

To date, no member of the CNMI Legislature has taken up the issue or introduced a bill that would make CNMI public officials' statements of financial interest readily available to the public.

CASINO

From Page 1

defined benefit members' withdrawn contributions.

Once a casino agreement is signed, it would be the biggest development project in the CNMI since the once thriving Saipan garment industry.

"We hope to reach a decision by Thursday or Friday if everything is completed by then," Lottery Commission Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Among the still contentious issues in the negotiations include the locations where the hotels and casinos will be built since there is limited land on Saipan to build at least 2,000 guest rooms in just a single area.

Lottery Commission members and Best Sunshine continue to review and suggest changes to the draft casino development agreement. Best Sunshine also has to check with its Hong Kong headquarters on suggested changes.

Based on Best Sunshine's four-phased integrated resort plan presented in May, the first phase includes a 401-room hotel and casino by 2017-2018. The grand opening is set for 2020, with total rooms of at least 2,000 as required by law.

The Inos administration, meanwhile, asked the public's patience yesterday as negotiations between the Lottery Commission and Bes Sunshine continue.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration is aware that the parties are finalizing negotiations and "remains hopeful that a license may be issued very soon."

He said until a license has been issued and the funds are released from escrow, the administration is unable to set any schedule or timelines for payments.

"We ask for the public's continued patience as we await the official awarding of a license by the commission. We can say, however, that once a license has been issued and the funds are released, the administration intends to work swiftly to give retirees and active DB members the money they deserve," Demapan said.

Moreover, as of yesterday, there is still no telling whether it would be the Department of Finance or retirement settlement fund trustee Civille & Tang that would process the payments to retirees and former DB plan members.

Igisomar reiterated yesterday that "there is an August 1 deadline," referring to Bank of Guam releasing the $30 million in escrow to its original owners—the license applicants—if an exclusive casino license is not granted that day.

"We are moving, making sure we get everything together by Thursday or Friday. We set those two dates for meetings so if we can't reach a decision by Thursday, we will still have Friday," he added.

This also comes at a time when the Office of the Attorney General is still reviewing referendum petitions to reject the Saipan casino laws. Petitioners want voters to decide in November whether they want a casino on Saipan or not.

TYPHOON

From Page 1

Tropical Storm Halong is moving northwest at 6 mph but is expected to turn back towards the west-northwest this morning with a slight increase in forward speed during the next 24 hours.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to 60 mph and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles from the center. Tropical Storm Halong is forecasted to continue intensifying during the next couple of days and could become a typhoon within the next 12 to 24 hours.

A tropical storm watch remains in effect for Tinian and Saipan, and tropical storm conditions including damaging winds of 39 mph or more are possible within the next 48 hours.

Flood advisory

Tropical Storm Halong could bring locally heavy rainfall to the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan up to Thursday morning.

A flash flood watch is now in effect for the island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Thursday morning, while rainfall of 3 to 5 inches are probable by noon today, Wednesday.

The public is being urged to stay away from flooded roads and pay attention to stream and river levels. People living in a low-lying or flood-prone area are encouraged to be prepared for the possibility of flooding on your property over the next few days. Take precautionary measures and expect heavy rain showers and gusty winds associated with Tropical Storm Halong.

High surf advisory

Tropical Storm Halong will also cause surf to rise rapidly today as it moves over the Marianas this afternoon, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Surf will remain hazardous through the latter part of the week.

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Sunday. Hazardous surf of 9 to 12 feet was expected along south and west facing shores last night. Surf will build even higher by today, Wednesday, along all reefs as Tropical Storm Halong moves across the Marianas. Surf is expected to reach warning levels by this evening.

The general public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially those along all reefs as rip currents are life threatening. Stay out of the water.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be monitoring the movement of this tropical storm and will be issuing bulletins as they become available. Official bulletins will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the CNMI EOC dispatch center at 237-8000 or dial 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC dispatch center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Fejeran resigning as Inos' special adviser for trade

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Businessman Ben T. Fejeran told Saipan Tribune yesterday he is resigning as early as this week as Gov. Eloy S. Inos' special adviser for trade and industrial development—an unpaid position he has held for four months.

He said he is resigning because he does not want to have any conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, when he decides to become a part of a private development project in the future.

"I am going to submit my resignation letter as early as this week. I am not being paid for this position but my goal is to look for investors to help the government. I am going to resign because I do not want to have a conflict of interest in the future when I decide to get involved in a development project. I think it will be better to resign, to have a peace of mind," Fejeran said.

Inos appointed Fejeran to the post on March 27, 2014.

Fejeran's appointment has drawn question from some community members. One of them questioned his selection as special adviser for trade and industrial development when he, as a businessman, still owes the Department of Public Lands a big amount of money, over $1 million, involving his former business Solid Builders.

Fejeran, when asked about this, said there are just some people who get "jealous" or "envious when they see others trying to do something, getting up, and they try to pull him down."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, meanwhile, said Fejeran "is not being compensated."

"Because he has access to business associates in the region who are interested in exploring opportunities in the CNMI, Mr. Fejeran offered his assistance to the governor at no cost," Demapan said.

As to Fejeran's unpaid obligations to DPL, Demapan said the Inos administration was not a party to that lease agreement.

"Any negotiations, calculations or payments are dealt with directly by DPL and its client. The administration is aware though that the lease previously held by Solid Builders had already been terminated," the press secretary added.

Another special adviser post that does not cost the government as well is that of Shigeyoshi Kato, special economic adviser for Japan, Demapan said.

Saipan and Rota solar power

Editor's Note: The following is a statement issued by the author in response to the Coldwell Solar report that appeared in this paper on July 23.

We have reviewed Coldwell Solar's protest as filed with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and find that they have misused a very broadly derived annual average solar module pricing estimate in such a way as to significantly mislead the people of the CNMI regarding the solar panel cost decrease since the time of our award and the resulting impact on our project's pricing as a whole.

Coldwell's protest quotes a 2011 solar module price of $2.00/watt. This was the basis of their statement that prices have dropped "up to 60 percent" since 2011. While not disputing that the average solar module price for all of 2011 may have been approximately $2.00/watt, by the time ACE was negotiating final PPA pricing with the CUC, solar module prices had fallen to approximately $1.00/watt, as indicated by the module quote from the module manufacturer Yingli from Dec 2011. I also have attached an independent module pricing report from Oct. 2011, describing the same approximately $1.00/watt pricing level and trends.

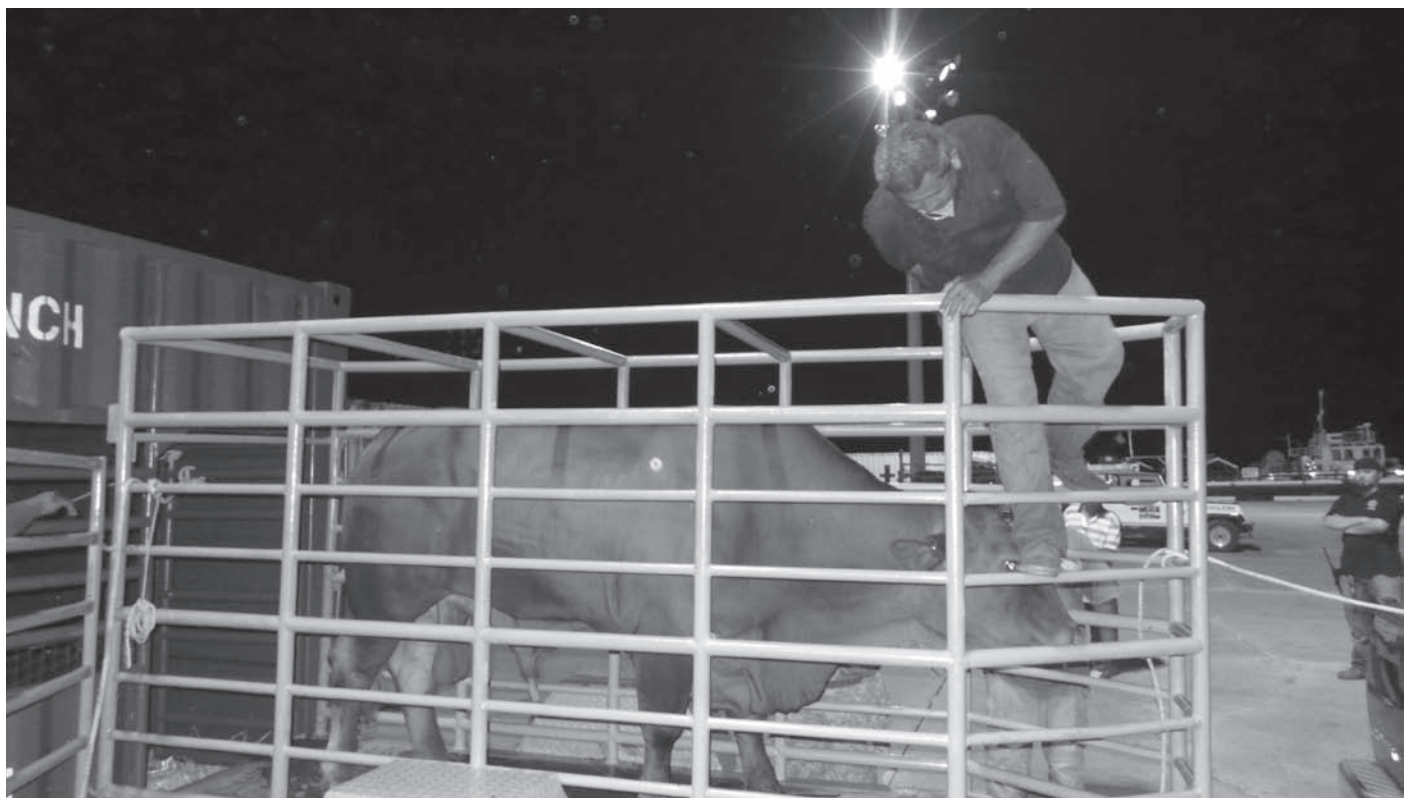
However, Coldwell Solar CEO Dave Hood also seeks to mislead about the actual impact of falling solar module prices on overall project cost. The roughly $40 million total cost for our project, as quoted in news reports following the CUC approval to finalize the PPA contract in June, is comprised of many project elements, only one of which is solar modules. Additional project costs include engineering costs, solar mounting equipment, myriad electrical components, inverters (for converting the DC power to AC power), transformers, grid interconnection costs, financing fees and other direct and indirect project and transactional costs, shipping to Saipan and Rota, and labor and other construction costs, among them.

We estimate that solar modules have decreased by approximately $0.20/watt since late 2011; and so the overall impact on the baseline project cost is a reduction on the order of 5 percent.

Add to that, however, as discussed openly at the CUC board meeting, as a result of the Renewable Energy Integration Study completed in 2013, we have committed to incorporating additional recommended technology as needed in order to ensure the highest possible level of solar energy delivered. This will be additional cost over and above costs assumed in our original pricing proposal. But we are able to do this as a way to deliver more solar energy to the Saipan and Rota grids because of the decrease in solar module pricing.

Finally, with respect to the CUC Solar PPA price, our pricing is well within the current market for projects being constructed under PPA's in the region. We note specifically, that based on information publicly available on the Guam Power Authority website, our CNMI CUC PPA pricing appears to be lower than the solar project that recently started construction on Guam. (see http://www.guampuc.com/dockets/puc20130403121026.PDF, Item 14; see also,http://www.guampuc.com/dockets/puc20130409221641.pdf, footnote 8, bottom of page 2).

Tom Anderson
CNMI CUC Solar Program Manager



CATTLE EXPORT
An almost 1-ton bull is loaded onto a specially designed container that will carry a total of nine bulls and a young female cow to Guam, at the Port of Saipan on Saturday night. The cattle shipment left Saipan early Sunday morning and arrived in Guam Monday morning, some 12 years since the last shipment of its kind from the CNMI to Guam.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its Government and Business customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before Thursday, **JULY 31, 2014**. Payments not received by close of business on **JULY 31** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Thursday, **JULY 31**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Thursday, **JULY 31**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

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CUC accuses DOJ of overreach in its court filings

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. filed Monday in the U.S. District Court its preliminary response to U.S Department of Justice's filings, disputing several points that it said were inaccurate statements, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that DOJ's 97-page filing contained numerous inaccuracies, "most of which CUC has addressed."

Fletcher assured that CUC continues to make steady progress on projects that are required under stipulated orders 1 and 2.

Stipulated order 1 focuses on CUC's quarterly progress that includes staff updates, organizational structure, management structure, procurement procedures and training programs, and water and wastewater operations.

Stipulated order 2 focuses on replacing an eight-inch pipeline in Lower Base, replacing the dilapidated Tank 102, and oil remediation actions at Power Plants 1 and 2, among others.

CUC's chief legal counsel James Sirok said that DOJ submits its filings late and just before scheduled hearings, giving CUC little chance to respond before appearing in court.

"The effect of these filings has been to prejudice the utility, and throw it off balance with competing demands on its time as it attempts to address the actual issues requested by the court as well as the ongoing critical construction projects," Sirok said.

He noted that CUC has asked DOJ to coordinate their response to give CUC a chance to adequately respond before hearing dates.

In the latest instance, Sirok said that CUC had only two business days to respond after the court brought to CUC's attention that DOJ had filed a three-page letter with the court.

Inaccuracies

Although he appreciates the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's support in recruiting staff, Fletcher said that naming CUC's chief accountant as their acting chief financial operator is "reasonable until it can fill the position."

"The chief accountant is a certified public accountant, licensed by the Guam Board of Accountancy, and has approximately 10 years of management level utility experience," Fletcher said.

He also said that EPA failed to mention that it also has obligations to ensure that all aspects of the master plan is properly included, such as the groundwater plan.

"EPA approved the scope of work for the master plan and in that scope, the consultant was supposed to only make recommendations about the groundwater plan. Now, EPA is requiring that CUC have the consultant actually draft the plan," Fletcher said.

CUC's petroleum and compliance manager Andrew Longworth belied EPA's concern that CUC "continues to fail to address the ongoing [oil] contamination" at the power plants in Lower Base, saying that it is incorrect.

"Both the number and size of spills have reduced significantly over the years. To characterize a spill within secondary containment as a reportable discharge is another instance of overreach," Longworth said.

Longworth also responded to a claim by EPA's on-scene coordinator for Region IX, Michelle Rogow, who said that the oil/water separator system discharges are a source of subsurface oil contamination and migration into the ocean at power plants 1,2, and 4 and the Rota power plant.

"There is no evidence that treated water from the current oil/water separator system is causing an ongoing reportable release into the waters of the U.S," Longworth said.

Fletcher assured that CUC continues to make steady progress on both stipulated orders and projects.

"This progress is in spite of the many hardships we experience," he said.

"While we agree with the EPA's desire to complete more projects and complete stalled projects, such as Tank 102 and oil pipeline, any assertions that CUC has ignored its responsibility is simply not true," he added.

Fletcher said that CUC has complied with the stipulated orders and routinely coordinates and communicate with all involved parties.

He noted that government arrears jeopardize the operational stability of CUC and its ability to fund more projects.

"Future successes are highly dependent on maintaining a financially stable utility. Today we do not recover our costs of service and run deficits in water and sewer utilities; the electric utility is not in as bad a shape operationally, but there is no money for additional stipulated order no. 2 projects," Fletcher said.

EPA: CUC holds 'groundbreaking' rites for pipeline in 2011 but no ground was broken

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. held a "groundbreaking ceremony" in 2011 for the construction of a fuel pipeline in Lower Base, but no ground was broken and the pipeline has not been constructed, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

» CUC says delays out of its control

In CUC's response, CUC petroleum and compliance manager Andrew Longworth stated that CUC has pushed this pipeline project from the start.

Missed deadlines were due to the poor performances of approved contractors, said Longworth in a declaration on Monday in support of CUC's reply to EPA's report.

EPA, through U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, disclosed that U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter spent an extensive time discussing the CUC pipeline and CUC's inability to replace the approximately one mile aboveground pipeline that delivers fuel to Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil bulk storage facility.

"The new pipeline construction is critical as the CUC pipeline is poorly maintained and degraded, leaks, and is no longer safe to operate at pressure," said O'Brien in EPA's July report filed in federal court on Friday.

Notwithstanding the pipeline risks, O'Brien said CUC violated numerous court deadlines for constructing this critical oil transport conduit.

The pipeline project was initiated in 2010 at a cost of $1.8 million. Due to numerous problems that contributed to the project's delay, the cost ballooned to $6 million this year.

CUC was initially required to complete the pipeline by Feb. 24, 2011.

O'Brien said the court subsequently gave CUC multiple extensions of time—2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014—to complete the pipeline.

O'Brien said the reasons for CUC's unexcused failure to timely build the pipeline include, in part, that the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency determined that the initial pipeline design did not comply with regulations and that CUC's first construction manager resigned in 2011.

The other reasons are that CUC did not make an earnest effort to hire a new construction manager until ordered by the court; failure to timely order needed equipment; contract and procurement delays; inability to submit an adequate construction execution plan; failure to provide adequate information regarding subcontractors; and failure to draft basic design and construction documents.

O'Brien said that important approvable construction documents were only recently submitted to EPA, such as the construction execution plan and quality assurance plan.

Further, the lawyer said, it was not until June 10, 2014, that CUC informed EPA that CUC had not ordered the pipe bends (curved piping) necessary for the pipeline construction.

In CUC's response to EPA's July 29, 2014, report, CUC petroleum and compliance manager Longworth pointed out that the extensions were requested by the utility on the advice of Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers, the construction manager.

Longworth said delays were outside of the utility's control, despite the utility's constant follow up.

Regarding the bends, Longworth said CUC informed EPA of this potential issue on numerous occasions, beginning in November 2013.

He said a purchase orders for the bends was issued by Smithbridge on May 10, 2014, to Houston Pipe benders, in Texas.

Longworth explained, among other things, that the multi-stage inspections were done by construction manager Vanderpool, during the fabrication, coating and quality inspection.

DEMOCRATS Gubernatorial candidate Edward "Tofila" M. Deleon Guerrero, front row, third from right, his running mate Daniel Quitugua and other Democratic Party candidates, along with their families and supporters, pose for a group photo after the filing of candidacies at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe on Friday morning.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

United to cease Guam flights to 3 Japan cities

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—United Airlines says it will discontinue its twice weekly service to three Japanese cities by February of next year.

Service to Niigata ends Dec. 14; service to Hiroshima is over Dec. 19, and service to Okayama will cease on Feb. 21 of next year.

A statement from United Corporate Communications expresses regret, but explains that the current flight service on those routes does not meet their financial performance expectations.

The statement from United states: "United confirms that it will discontinue its twice-weekly Guam-Niigata, Guam-Hiroshima and Guam-Okayama service, effective Dec. 14, 2014, Dec. 19, 2014, and Feb. 21, 2015 respectively.

"We have regretfully made this decision because the services' financial performance did not meet our expectations in order to continue regular service on these routes.

"This action is consistent with the company's previously-announced capacity guidance. We will contact customers with bookings for flights beyond those dates to either offer them alternate travel plans or provide refunds.

"We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

"United will maintain a sales presence in the markets after the service termination to continue to sell the Guam market from these cities via other United gateways such as Nagoya and Narita with the cooperation of ANA, our partner airline in Japan.

"We will also continue to seek ad-hoc charter opportunities from these markets to Guam in peak season if demand warrants the service."

CPA, 2 companies settle dispute over airport project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and the two companies it sued in federal court over alleged design and engineering defects in a project known as West Addition at the Saipan International Airport have resolved the lawsuit.

CPA and the Chicago-based Boeing Company and the Texas corporation Boeing Service Company, through their respective counsels, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday about their settlement.

With this development, CPA counsel Matthew Gregory and Boeing Company and Boeing Service Company counsel Sean Frink asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

In a joint report, Gregory and Frink stated that CPA and Boeing have resolved their dispute and the lawsuit may be dismissed.

The lawyers said CPA filed the lawsuit as a result of a series of problems related to additional terminal space and for other security improvements at the Saipan International Airport.

Boeing had contracted with CPA on the project. Boeing then subcontracted with others, including Leo A. Daly Co., which designed and managed construction for the project.

"The CPA's lawsuit, while directed at Boeing (with whom CPA was in privity), solely related to defects in the design prepared by [Leo A. Daly Co.]," Gregory and Frink stated.

The lawyers said that after filing the lawsuit, CPA and Boeing reached an initial settlement, which had several conditions. One of that was that CPA presents the settlement for Superior Court's approval, as part of a parallel case CPA had filed against Leo A. Daly Co., and that the Superior Court makes certain findings specified in the settlement deal.

Gregory and Frink said that, on June 20, 2014, the Superior Court entered an opinion and order on the CPA's motion to approve the settlement.

The Superior Court agreed that the settlement was entered into in good faith, but declined to rule on certain other matters that were required by the settlement.

Gregory and Frink said the Superior Court's opinion and order gave both parties options about how to proceed, which CPA and Boeing discussed in good faith. Ultimately, CPA and Boeing reached an amended settlement agreement.

Boeing informed Leo A. Daly Co. of the discussions and amended settlement agreement before it was executed. Leo A. Daly Co. was given a copy of the agreement.

CPA then filed a motion for a finding of good faith and approval of that settlement. The Superior Court granted CPA's motion.

Gregory and Frink said Boeing's lawsuit against Leo A. Daly Co., which is pending in federal court, will continue.

CPA sued Boeing for breach of contract. In the lawsuit, CPA asked the federal court to order the defendants to pay $1 million-plus for damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Longtime volunteer signs up for Municipal Council seat

Surrounded by family members and supporters, Lareina Castro Camacho filed for candidacy for the Saipan Municipal Council last week in her first try for a political seat.

"I enjoy public service and I would be grateful for the opportunity to start at the Municipal Council," said Camacho.

Camacho is currently the manager for the Pesticides and Storage Tank Branch at the Division of Environmental Quality within the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands.

As manager, she and her team have made significant improvements with enforcement actions issued, reduced the number of unregistered (illegal) pesticides sold or imported in the CNMI, and took the lead in conducting pesticide residue testing on locally grown fruits and vegetables.

If elected as Municipal Council member, she plans to work with the mayor of Saipan to provide policy decisions that benefit the community as a whole and provide quality service.

"To meet this goal, I shall serve the community by promoting and initiating public functions and community meetings so that local ordinances and resolutions are not only applicable to the residents of Saipan but shall improve our quality of life," said Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lareina Castro Camacho submits her petition for a seat in the Saipan Municipal Council last week surrounded by family members and supporters.

Her areas of focus would include:

■ Community Safety: Linking neighborhood watch associations with each other and helping to establish more neighborhood watch associations and more lighting in villages;

■ Village Development: Instill pride through the creation of village festivals, showcasing sights, sounds and delicacies of the island such as breadfruit festival and mango festivals; and

■ Environment: Working with current trash haulers to develop a recycling incentive for residential customers.

Camacho joined BECQ as its public information officer. Prior to that post, she served as the special assistant to the president at the Northern Marianas College. She's also occupied posts with CREES at NMC, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Division of Public Health.

She received her bachelor of arts degree in Public Administration at the Seattle University, Seattle, Washington in 1998.

Camacho is very much a public servant of the NMI, having served and continues to remain active in various private and public organizations since she returned home to Saipan in 1999.

Most notable is her decadelong service to the Marianas March Against Cancer, the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association. Camacho is also currently the secretary to the Rotary Club of Saipan and was the Rotarian of the Year for 2013. ***(PR)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Reports
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. Old Business
a. Technical Standards Regulations

V. New Business
a. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
b. Casino Employee License Applications and Hotel Registrations

VI. Executive Session

VII. Miscellaneous/ Administrative Matters

VIII. Adjournment

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Reservations Agent (3)

Qualifications:
Preferably high school graduate. Must have minimum two years of experience, in Sales and Marketing or Tourism, and or equivalent years of relevant experience in hotel industry. Know how to operate office equipments like fax/copier machine, telephone, computer (knowledge in Fidelio system is an advantage). Able to handle, arrange the agents or guests needs and complaints efficiently. Must have excellent communications, good quality customer service, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than August 05, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

POI Aviation invites qualified US worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Airport Service (Passenger Service) Agent (13 Full-time / 2 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Assists passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Chinese. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Airport Service (Cleaning) Agent (28 Full-time / 3 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials.

Customer Service (Ramp/Cargo) Agent (9 Full-time / 4 Part-time)

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment. Ability to learn how to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than August 4, 2014. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Meetings of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday August 1, 2014 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend. The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Meeting Called to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Public Comment
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Adoption of Minutes
VI. Executive Session
(regarding casino license)
VII. Return to Public Session
VIII. Casino License
IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission at 664-2375.

Emergency Shelter and Evacuation Center Training for Samoa

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The trainees were challenged to construct four emergency shelters, using the basic materials supplied as standard by Samoa Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross.

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Last week, 18 representatives of Samoa's Welfare and Internally-Displaced People Sub-Committee of the Disaster Advisory Committee attended a training course in Emergency Shelter Custer and Evacuation Center Management facilitated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with the Disaster Management Office and Samoa Red Cross Society.

The training is the first of its kind in the Pacific Islands region and is part of the Disaster Management Office's commitment to improve the quality of emergency response in Samoa. The training was supported by the ACP-EU funded "Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific" project and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil protection department.

The training provided participants with an understanding of the shelter needs of people affected by disasters and how national and international systems can work together to meet those needs. This can range from providing temporary shelter during and immediately after a disaster in evacuation centers, to providing support to repair damaged homes to fully reconstructing homes destroyed by a disaster.

The trainees learned about the Sphere standards, which is a set of minimum standards and guidelines for humanitarian response to ensure people affected by disasters are provided adequate and appropriate support. The course also looked at the ways in which international partners can be coordinated to reduce duplication and ensure that international efforts are in line with and support the response and recovery operations of the national government.

The trainees developed hands-on skills as they were challenged to construct four emergency shelters, using the basic materials supplied as standard by Samoa Red Cross and the IFRC: two tarpaulins and a Shelter Tool Kit containing a shovel, a machete, string, nails, a claw hammer, a handsaw, a hoe and a pair of pliers. The construction, at Vailima Park and Reserve, demonstrated how easily and quickly the shelters could be erected using simple materials to provide people who have lost their homes with a roof over their head.

To ensure better preparation for the use of evacuation centers in future emergencies, the training provided the necessary knowledge and skills to select, maintain and manage evacuation centers. Participants were introduced to the National Guidelines and Checklist for Evacuation Center Inspection, testing the checklist at Nurse's Hall, an evacuation center that was used during Tropical Cyclone Evan in 2012. Trainers also shared information on the types of services that should be provided to evacuees in a center, the standards that should be met in relation to protection, water and sanitation and food and nutrition, and how to manage problems that may arise in the center. ***(SPC)***

GOP thanks Refaluwasch community

The members of the CNMI Republican Party board extend their *tirow* and appreciation for the overwhelming support and guidance from the Refaluwasch community on Sunday, July 27, 2014.

"I am humbled by the show of support from the Refaluwasch community for taking the lead during Sunday's gathering. GOP Refaluwasch Club chairman Jack Ogumoro and I are also humbled by the show of support from the candidates, families, and supporters during the gathering. It was a time not only to meet the candidates and listen to local issues but, most importantly, it was a time to rekindle friendships and family ties," said GOP president James Ada.

Joe Limes said the Sunday gathering provided a venue to promote and showcase the Refaluwasch culture and traditions. "Community gatherings like these are special moments to share wisdom, to heal, and to promote that which binds us together," said Limes.

Gus Kaipat and his talented crew coordinated the lively event, which featured various cultural dances from a number of talented groups. "We look forward to September for the Chamolinian Heritage Month where we will continue this kind of gatherings to showcase our island hospitality," said Kaipat. ***(GOP)***

EPA issues policy that supports tribal, indigenous communities

WASHINGTON—Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy signed Friday the *EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples*, reinforcing the agency's commitment to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis when issues of environmental justice arise.

"All tribal and indigenous communities deserve environmental and public health protection. Through this agreement, we are reinforcing our commitment to tribal communities, especially in addressing issues of Environmental Justice," said McCarthy. "We know that tribes are uniquely impacted by a changing climate, which highlights the importance of this agreement and other agency actions, including funding research through the STAR Tribal health grants."

Over the past 20 years, the agency has made substantial progress in developing both its tribal and environmental justice programs. Building on EPA's *Plan EJ 2014,* the policy integrates 17 environmental justice and civil rights principles. The plan also identifies existing informational and resource tools to support EPA in its endeavor to make indigenous regions environmentally safe.

This policy, started in 2011, was developed through tribal government consultations, meetings with state and tribal organizations and three public comment periods engaging indigenous communities and other stakeholders. ***(EPA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 30, 2012

Freedom Air needs $600K loan to stay afloat

Freedom Air needs an additional $600,000 loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority to allow the inter-island carrier to continue its operations for the next six months, according to spokesperson Amjad Farhoud. Farhoud told members of CDA's Development Corporation Division board Friday that Freedom Air will use the money to procure airplane engine spare parts to avert the shutdown of its service in the CNMI. Along with airline station manager Dennis Cruz, Farhoud said from the original loan proposal of $2.9 million, the CDA division only approved $900,000 in March this year. He said the amount is not enough to cover the priority expenditures of the carrier including obligations to vendors. Freedom Air's attempts to seek loan assistance from private banks, according to Farhoud, were also unsuccessful due to lack of asset/collateral that would backup the loan proposal.

Delta donates two tickets for TOC hole-in-one prize

Delta Air Lines has announced that it has donated two BusinessElite tickets to the U.S. as a hole-in-one prize at the upcoming Tournament of Champions on Aug. 4 and 5. The value of each ticket exceeds $6,000. "The Tournament of Champions continues to raise critical funds that benefit important projects, especially projects that benefit the CNMI's tourism industry," said Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines Sales and Marketing. "As in previous years, we are happy to be a part of this year's event again." "We would like to thank Delta Airlines for its sponsorship and its commitment to the event," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The hole-in -one prize is sure to entice players to join the tournament." The 17th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on August 4 and 5. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes.

CNMI mourns Army specialist from Tinian

Tinian resident Francisco "Frank" Mendiola, 49, said his whole body went numb when he first heard that his son, the late U.S. Army Specialist Hanson Mendiola, was brought to the intensive care unit and passed away in Texas on July 22. His son was 29. "It was so hard and painful to hear news like that. My whole body went numb when I heard he was in ICU. He passed away later. The U.S. Army is still investigating what happened," the older Mendiola told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview yesterday. The father said his son joined the U.S. Army some four years ago. "He'd always wanted to be in the Army," the older Mendiola said. He said his son graduated valedictorian in high school, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Western Oregon University. He said his son taught for two years at Tinian High School. "One summer he went to Guam because he said he wanted to teach there. But he called me from Guam and he said he's joining the Army. I said it's his choice to make. I'm proud of my son, and I was very supportive of what he wanted to do in his life," the father said. The late Army specialist was stationed in South Korea for a year before going back to Fort Meade in Maryland.

Two women get 30 months in jail for beating female cashier at store

Two women who were among five persons accused in the beating of a female cashier and two men at a store in Chalan Kanoa were slapped each with a jail sentence of two years and six months. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman in separate orders issued on Thursday, gave Norna Tipingeni credit for two months and 14 days she already served in jail. Wiseman gave Arinna A. Reiong credit for two months and six days she already served in prison. The judge ordered the defendants to start serving the jail term on Friday, July 27, at the Department of Corrections. Tipingeni and Reiong are expected to be released from DOC on Nov. 11, 2014 and Nov. 19, 2014 respectively. Wiseman required the defendants each to pay a $100 fine and $100 court assessment fee. Wiseman ordered the defendants to pay their pro rata share of restitution to the victims in an amount to be determined by the court after the Office of the Attorney General's submission of restitution.

Pacifica Insurance offers $5K hole-in-one TOC prize

Pacifica Insurance has just elevated the excitement of this Saturday's Tournament of Champions by offering a hole-in-one prize of $5,000.

"The Tournament of Champions has done a great job of raising funds that pay for important community and beautification projects," said Shirley Sablan, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters general manager. "We are honored to be part of this year's event and are looking forward to a great tournament. I wish all the golfers great luck!"

"We are grateful for Pacifica Insurance's sponsorship of the $5,000 hole-in-one prize," said tournament director Ben Babauta. "The company has been actively involved in many local events and activities and we are happy that they are part of this year's Tournament of Champions."

The 19th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's East & West Courses on Aug. 2 and 3. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $185.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Triple J Motors, Atkins Kroll Toyota (Saipan), and Joeten Motors. Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance representatives present the company's donation of a $5,000 check that will be featured as a hole-in-one prize at the 2014 Tournament of Champions on Aug. 2 and 3. From left to right: Marida Pensader, Ray Travilla, Shirley Sablan, Nicole Babauta, Jessica Pangelinan, Jeff Taylor, Ben Babauta, Janel Pangelinan, Marie Sablan, Tess Gella, and Elna Tighe.

Discounted tuition rates at more than 150 institutions

The Northern Marianas College is inviting prospective college students to learn more about tuition discounts (at over 150 institutions in the western United States) at the free Information Session planned for tonight, Wednesday, July 30, 2014. The session will focus on the CNMI's membership in the Western Interstate Commerce for Higher Education, or WICHE, and the programs that it administers for college students.

The free session will be held tonight from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D1 (across NMC Bookstore). There is no fee to participate in the session.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is a regional organization that, until recently, had 15 member states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The CNMI became the 16th member of WICHE last year with support from the CNMI governor and members of the Legislature.

The organization works to improve access to higher education and ensure student success.

Among other benefits, membership in WICHE allows CNMI students who are pursuing their college degree to be eligible for reduced tuition rates at two- and four-year public postsecondary institutions like California State University, University of Nevada in Las Vegas, Boise State University, Washing State University, and other universities and colleges in the western U.S.

For graduate students (those pursuing a master's or doctorate degree), WICHE's "Western Regional Graduate Program" enables students to enroll in more than 250 graduate programs and pay the resident tuition rate instead of the non-resident rate that an out-of-state student would normally pay.

For more information about WICHE or the planned information session, contact Christine Inos at 237-6782 or email christine.inos@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Comments for DoD public access plan being accepted until Aug. 14

ASAN, Guam—The public is encouraged to submit comments on the Department of Defense public access plan through Aug. 14.

Comments are being sought to assist with the development of the plan, which will facilitate public visits to historic sites of interest on DOD properties as well as allow citizens to safely collect culturally important natural resources.

Copies of the document are available at the Mayors Council of Guam, Guam State Historic Preservation Office, University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Library, Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center and the Nieves M. Flores Public Library.

Online copies are available at the Cultural Resource Information website go.usa.gov/kZWG (case sensitive) and JRM website www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/jrm.html.

The public comment period is in coordination between the Guam State Historic Preservation Office and Joint Region Marianas. ***(PR)***

Study will test promising treatment to avert kidney disease among diabetics

By DAN BROWNING
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—Paul Wild has been a reliable research volunteer at the University of Minnesota for 20 years, participating in two landmark studies that changed the standard of care for diabetes, a disease that afflicts more than 24 million Americans.

"Looking back, it was probably the best thing I ever did," said the Mendota Heights dentist.

Now, Wild, 61, is among 480 patients being recruited for a $24 million, 3 1/2-year test to see whether a medication that has been used routinely to prevent gout can delay the onset of potentially fatal kidney disease in patients with Type 1 diabetes.

If the study succeeds, the medication, called allopurinol, could be to diabetic kidney disease what baby aspirin is to heart attacks, said Dr. Luiza Caramori, an endocrinologist helping to oversee the study at the university. The drug could delay the need for dialysis and kidney transplants by eight to 10 years, she said, saving thousands of lives and tens of millions of dollars in medical spending.

Diabetes has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, with rates increasing so fast that researchers predict that 1 in 3 Americans born after 2000 could develop either type 1 or type 2. As many as 30 percent of diabetics will develop serious kidney disease within 20 years of their diagnosis, making it the leading cause of kidney failure in the United States. And because the waiting list for a kidney is so long, hundreds of patients die each year waiting for a transplant.

While the University of Minnesota study is limited to subjects with Type 1 diabetes, Caramori said positive findings are likely also to benefit the far more common Type 2 diabetics.

"It's amazing that in the past 20 years we've basically made no progress in delaying kidney disease in patients with diabetes," she said. "It's also disappointing and scary, because the rates of complications are quite high in these patients."

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system destroys the body's ability to produce insulin. It affects fewer than 1 in 10 diabetics. The much more common Type 2 often results from genetic predisposition, coupled with obesity and lifestyle factors, leading initially to resistance to the body's own insulin.

The University of Minnesota is one of seven U.S. sites and two international locations recruiting participants for the study.

Results from three small preliminary studies indicate that allopurinol shows real promise. It suppresses the production of an enzyme, xanthine oxidase, a result of metabolic activity, which can lead to excess acid in the urine.

It's also cheap and has been used in the Untied States for nearly 50 years to prevent gout flare-ups.

The study will assign subjects randomly to two equal groups. They will get either allopurinol or a placebo—neither the patients nor their doctors will know which—and they'll have to visit a study center or a site working remotely with the centers 17 times over three years for a variety of procedures and tests.

Diabetics account for about 45 percent of people with end-stage kidney disease. Caramori said the survival rate, once they enter dialysis, is very low.

"So there's a big fight trying to bring funds to diabetes research. There's a lot of money allocated to cancer that can benefit, of course, many patients. But even more funds are allocated to AIDS, for example, where the fraction of the population that's affected is much smaller," she said. Though both diseases are important, by comparison, she said, "We are not doing well in terms of spending money in diabetes research."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Why Europe depends on America today: A single pivot point in WWI

"The Great War" and "The war to end all war" proved to be neither. The conflict that would bleed to death some of Earth's proudest empires—while killing 16.5 million soldiers and civilians—later would be christened World War I to distinguish it from the next, even deadlier slaughter. WWI also created a precedent and an image: If you wonder why Europe today relies on the U.S. and not, say, Brazil or China to help protect Ukraine, the answer traces back a century, to one battle in which American doughboys helped repel Germans grinding toward Paris.

One hundred years ago this week, the interlocking machinery of European alliances creaked into action: Austria-Hungary declared war against Serbia on July 28; Russia mobilized to defend the Serbs; Austria's ally, German Kaiser Wilhelm Hohenzollern, declared war against his cousin, Russian Czar Nicholas Romanov II; … War would ensnare France, Britain, the Ottoman Empire and eventually the U.S.

On Aug. 2, 1914, the *Tribune* editorial board wrote a piece titled, "The twilight of the kings." It is trenchant and lyrical, foreshadowing not only the war's "feudal slaughter" but also sclerotic monarchies, after centuries of family rule, finally yielding to democracies: "The republic marches east in Europe." That editorial's false prediction: "Western Europe of the people may be caught in this debacle, but never again."

"Twilight" reflected an America reluctant to join another continent's fight. Woodrow Wilson was re-elected president in 1916 because "he kept us out of war." By April 1917, he no longer could. Submarine warfare had torpedoed U.S. neutrality.

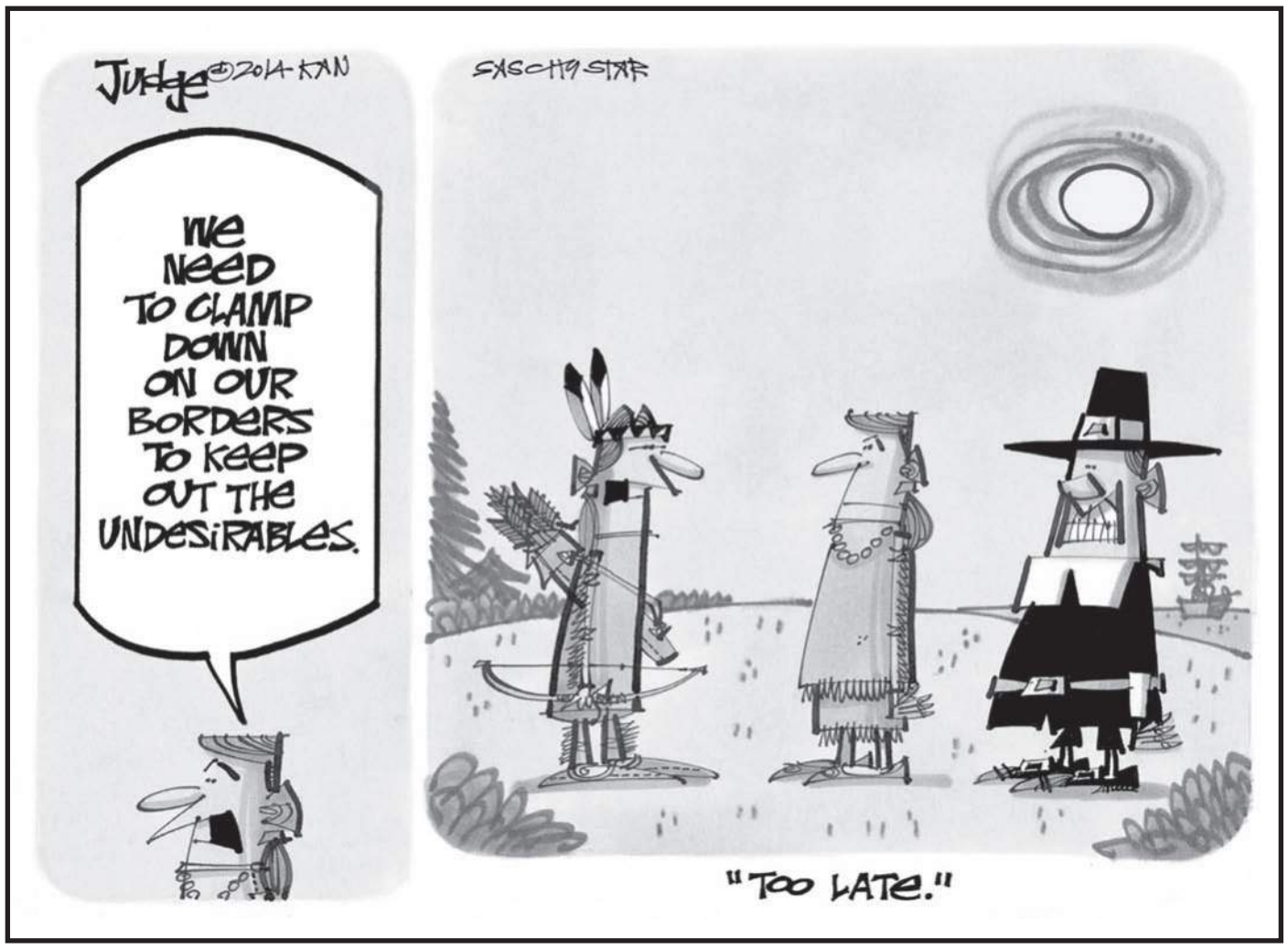
The rest of America's 20th century—and global expectations of this country in the 21st—flowed straight from the languid waters of a river in France.

In summer 1918, at the Second Battle of the Marne, forces of France, the U.S., the United Kingdom and Italy repulsed a strong German offensive. The Americans, fresher than their war-exhausted comrades, tipped the battle that tipped the war: In the words of Tribune correspondent Floyd Gibbons, "I never saw men charge to their death with finer spirit." After the Allies secured victory on Aug. 6, their muscular counteroffensive took only 97 days to break the German Empire.

Footnote to history: Most of what Americans learned early on about the Second Battle of the Marne came from Gibbons' only weapon, his notebook. He had wangled his way to the front, where reporters weren't permitted. As he crawled to aid a wounded major, the third German bullet to hit him took out his left eye. For his heroism, France decorated civilian Gibbons with its military Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) with Palm.

For Americans the war lasted only 16 months and didn't scar their soil or their cities. And while any casualty causes suffering, the U.S. death toll of 117,000 was less than 1 percent of the total carnage.

See WWI on Page 11



Attention a la marché

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The title was the French sign on the bus in Canada for "watch your step." Not too familiar with French terms, I rely on Wiki to get me around as long as words are printed in the Roman alphabet. I could "guess" on Greek and Cyrillic but Sanskrit gets me nowhere.

Well, Red Deer in Alberta was a midway stop on our way to Edmonton so I assumed we would do the same on the way down. I was in what's known as an "express bus" that does not stop where there are no passengers alighting, and after we passed all the exit signs for Red Deer in the highway, I decided we were not stopping. I paid the washroom at the back of the bus a visit rather than wait for the next pit stop. We ended up on the straight four-hour warm airstream heading south.

It was FIFA World Cup finals. The bus was WiFi-equipped so six laptops were set on streaming coverage. Not having a subscription to a network that offered the service, I relied on BBC's kick-by-kick literary coverage. By the time we got to the end of the line, the score still remained 0-0 going into overtime, Germany v. Argentina.

The best photo on cyberspace I saw was that of Popes Benedict and Francis, with the balloon above Benedict's head bearing an image of the German flag, and Francis, that of Argentina's. There was no contest in the "prayer" department, and I do not think either prelate had anything to do with the outcome of the World Cup.

The Germans were most probably of the Reformation whose progenitors now hardly cross the shadows of a spire. The faithful Argentines finger their rosary beads still, all Catholics of Pope Francis' flocks vintage post-Vatican II, a cultural hangover! An *Aleman's* kick on overtime took home the trophy and their South American counterparts singing *Don't Cry for me Argentina.*

Symbols. Some beach goers got a surprise last weekend. It appeared that a group trying to demythologize old "swastika" of the indelible Nazi connection and regain its original meaning flew the symbol among beach goers over Coney Island in NYC. It is true that the swastika previously had a long history of usage long forgotten and quietly maintained in many religious traditions. Its ascension to the German Nazi's use, when Hitler came to prominence that is associated with the horrors of the Holocaust genocide, is an insurmountable lump to overcome.

Were we defensive, we can say the same of the Christian cross in the numerous attempts of crusaders to capture Jerusalem from infidels, or when the sword and the cross went with the *conquistadores* in efforts to Christianize and dominate the natives of the Americas. This is not meant to diminish the swastika's effect among the Jewish folks but it does beg the question of how long a symbol's use, abuse, and misuse to be measured, and which ones are we to march out the exit door?

Let's be clear that the Aryan supremacy claim of Nazis was the Jewish and is Israel's enemy, not the swastika. In fact, if Israel behaves even in what it considers as act of defense but goes around exterminating Palestinians for geographical sovereignty and illusions, Israel is no better than its former German prosecutors. Unfortunately, with what the Jewish settlers have done with the Palestinians for two generations, and the current reign of terror on Gaza as a punitive response to the desperation of Hamas militants, it is no longer a question of right or wrong; the only thing that counts is the casualty count. Right now, the score that includes non-combatant children and women is more than 800 for the Palestinians, less than 40 for Israel.

Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria are nation-states in current internal conflicts. China has Tibetans *(Xizang)* faithful to the exiled Dalai Lama in India to contend with, and the Islamic Uighurs of Xinjiang are following their Turkic cousins in Central Asia to martyrdom with assurances of 72 *houri* (virgins) in *Jannah* (paradise) waiting for *mujahideen* felled in *jihad.* Similar methods are used in Tunisia and Libya, Egypt and Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Buddhists' self-immolation tactic is also on the rise. A United Methodist Church colleague in Texas, whose son lived with us in Saskatoon in the late '70s, doused himself with gasoline and set himself in flames to remind his denomination that it does not walk its talk on race issues, and needs to tend its policies on the LGBT crowd if it were to be a real people of *"open hearts, open minds, open doors*."

Another colleague tells of an experience coming down a mountain slope with other mountain climbers and realized that the snow was moving with them. They were in an avalanche and managed to shelter in time in a crevasse while the avalanche plunged 5,000 feet down the slope.

Watching your step seems to be too cautionary an advice to give in our time of rapid change and enormous challenges. That it came to me at a time of radical change and transformation sitting on a bus makes the task personally and socially critical and doubly urgent. *Attention a la marche,* I will.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Divorced: Fact and reality

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Appalling how policymakers have persistently second-guessed their way through issues of substance without employing "due diligence" to ensure they understand the larger picture.

Unfortunately, this unseemly patch-up job shows how they've divorced themselves from fact and reality that turns their prematurity into fodder for comedy. Must have learned to parrot Nancy Pelosi on Obamacare, "…let's approve it now and find out what's in it later." The later is here and it's an ugly failure all the way around.

It used servility to push its casino law. It later realized that it lacked the benefits of a comprehensive plan that should have involved realistic impact assessment of water, power, sewer and roads upon the immediate community. So the tiptoe isn't as stealthy and sturdy as originally thought. They accidentally kicked the hornet's nest.

In delayed fashion, it begins to realize that its reckless casino law isn't the savior to resolving persistent financial crisis of the Fund and other obligations of the local government. It has gone for a homerun over the better game plan of placing more runners on base.

This as we nervously ponder how they would navigate our steadily sinking fiscal canoe out of the deep and violent bottom of bankruptcy. The three projects need upwards of $250 million for basic infrastructure emplacement. Our annual revenue is a measly $135 million today. Hell has to freeze over before we could defray any portion of the project requirements.

There's nothing up that alley and so we descend into despair. Do we allow this to go on in perpetuity or shall we take charge now?

The arrogated miscalculation is buffered by apathy and insensitivity, what with salaries of between $60K and $90K per year. It shields the men of wisdom from the hardship the simple folks have to endure daily in the villages, Marianas-wide. Hardly any of them has any sense of percipiency that the hardship is tied to their failure to move the needle of growth forward.

The history of disengagement or disconnection with issues of significance is taller than the infamous Puerto Rico dump. The unintended consequences of ignorance and lack of percipiency of impending fiscal disasters are so devastating it's humiliating. Does vision mean anything to our men of wisdom?

Next came the exodus of Japanese investments including termination of JAL flights and the sale of Nikko Hotel and departure of other big investments from the Land of the Rising Sun. We tried our hands only to end up fast tracking their exodus. How do you mitigate loss of trust?

Indeed, I find it appalling a challenge watching huge investments deploy elsewhere, as it is the mindset that never buckled down to figuring out the ultimate consequence of such exodus for a fragile island economy. It was the usual *"ke sera."*

Here we are literally drowning in a huge storm at sea of deep red ink where everything we look at spirals downward, broke! Didn't know leadership and vision are a scarcity in these critically painful times.

Island peeves

CUC's CEO Alan Fletcher was caught tiptoeing at the power plant in Lower Base peeping at the three downed generators, one of which is back online, the other ready for scrap work (totaled) while the last one awaits parts (if the bankrupt utility agency could find money for it).

But the man at the helm has likely schemed two options when the federal district court decides to declare CUC incapable of meeting court orders: 1). Let the issue slide given the utility agency's bankruptcy and hopefully turn it over to a receiver of its choice. 2). Force geothermal as the savior of his grand excuse to confirm the epitome of competency in incompetency.

Employees who scrounge up parts from broken generators at the plant have lost confidence what CUC could do within the confines of common decency to keep the generators operating. Don't be surprised if within the next six months the island goes on power rationing or constant brown outs. Again, we would have confirmed that we don't "plan for" but "plan by" eventualities. It's all about competency, isn't it?

CUC is also in violation of current law mandating it to work on alternative power beyond the convenient number of 10 percent. Limiting it to this number is an admission of incompetence or a finger-crossing scheme to slip by, hoping nobody catches its solar RFP that definitely requires rebidding given that the price of this technology has decreased significantly. Goes to show what happens when the politics of grand incompetency rule over fully thought-out policies. Embarrassing!

■■■

The craze to live up to 100 is everywhere! I honestly had to probe whether there's any merit living after 75? I mean you could be a healthy 100 but what good is it when you no longer could reach the john on time or even make a pot of coffee at dawn or walk steadily? No thanks!

■■■

Government isn't in the business of turning in a profit at day's end. All it does is spend hard-earned taxpayers money the way it sees fit that sometime crashes in wasteland. While we dole out our contributions for royal misfits in government, no wonder the guys walk around with aura of indispensability. No sir! This attitude must change forthwith! Show us the taxpayers that you deserve your bi-weekly loot that hails from our pockets! Eh, we don't born for yesterday, *braddah*.

WWI

From Page 10

The U.S. was more than Europe's military rescuer. The old continental notion of invincible monarchies—of noble empires as the world's organizing principles—lay in ruin. And if the war itself hadn't wrought enough human havoc, the mobility of armies during and after it helped spread an influenza pandemic that killed 50 million to 100 million people—perhaps 5 percent of Earth's human population.

As all of this settled, one nation stood strongest:

The war effort had made America a greater industrial, financial, naval and diplomatic power. Herbert Hoover's American Relief Administration, which provided food to millions of starving Europeans in 23 nations, reinforced Wilson's dictum when the U.S. entered the war: This country wanted no tangible gain from its outcome. Wilson instead sought to "make the world safe for democracy."

Instead of territorial gain, the U.S. had earned a vast reputational gain. In the eyes of the world, the formerly isolationist Americans were strong, resolute, and willing to pay their own blood and treasure to buy the freedom of others.

So when subsequent menacing "isms"—fascism and communism—threatened Europe, Europeans turned again to the Americans.

The U.S. most notably answered that call in the war for which this year marks another anniversary—World War II started 75 years ago, in 1939.

In succeeding decades, with U.S. involvement in the growth of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and in a long list of geopolitical crises, America's service to Europe has exacted high costs. What was once the most self-reliant continent now sniffs smoke and looks west, trusting that if fire erupts, America will strike it.

This page often criticizes affluent European countries for refusing to spend more on their military preparedness. The collapse of the Soviet Union gave Europe essentially the same sense of calm that had made a massive war unthinkable before World War I. Oxford University war historian Margaret MacMillan writes in The Wall Street Journal of how that war brutalized Europeans who "had grown accustomed during the largely peaceful 19th century to think that peace was the normal state of affairs."

Today the guns of August that savaged poppy-dotted fields in 1914 echo faintly in wheat fields strewn with airliner wreckage and body parts. Crisis in Ukraine has startled those in the West who had come to see Russia as subdued, tamed.

Again, a Europe unable and unwilling to resolve its disputes turns to Washington, where politicians are unable and unwilling to agree on how aggressively America should lead.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Advertising the CNMI

This is an open letter to Gov. Eloy Inos and the Marianas Visitors Authority. Does MVA try to find other markets for the CNMI besides Asia? Is the MVA getting the support from the government that it really it needs?

I left Saipan in 2003 and ever since moving here, I always pick up travel magazines and other high-end publications that have travel sections and I look for ads for the CNMI.

Over the years here in the mainland, I have found numerous ads for Palau, the FSM, and other Pacific Island destinations. I have yet to find one single ad for the CNMI—ANYWHERE.

Once in a blue moon, I will find an ad for Guam. From first hand experience, I can tell you that 90 percent of U.S. mainlanders have no idea even of the existence of the CNMI. Some (not very many) know of Guam and even fewer can point it out to you on a map.

Granted the cost of getting to the CNMI is insanely expensive (I can fly round trip to Thailand from here in Washington for under $1,000. Round trip to Saipan is currently in the $2,500 range) but, the MVA needs to start looking elsewhere besides China, Taiwan, Russia, and other parts of Asia and advertise the CNMI around the globe.

The CNMI has world-class diving and fishing to offer, as well as its rich and varied culture and food. I truly believe once the word gets out about what an awesome destination the Northern Marianas is, it really will need more hotel rooms and not just another casino.

Paul H. Beebe
Spokane, Washington

Demand for competent people in government

Hotel occupancy went up last month from 74 percent to 79 percent. What does that mean? It means more money for the CNMI Legislature to hire more relatives, more money to waste on useless pet projects. Since the Finance secretary apparently doesn't have a master plan to deal with "extra income," it will be wasted instead of spent on enhancing our No. 1 industry, which is tourism. Don't expect sidewalks, lights or drainage in Garapan. Don't expect restrooms at our parks, don't expect zoning in our tourist areas or any planning.

I read in the 2014 GOP platform that they will make a master plan for MVA. MVB (old MVA) was created in 1976. Since then, nine administrations couldn't make a master plan in 38 years. That's just one of 117 items the GOP promises to do that should have been done in the past.

Voters, nothing will get done, nothing will be fixed and nothing will get better until you demand the government hire competent, trained, experienced, and tested and 100-percent qualified people to all technical and critical jobs. Even if they aren't related to you. The director of MVA isn't on Facebook or LinkedIn or YouTube. I checked PATA and the last entry for the CNMI is in 2011 and we only have seven listings period. Guam MVB has 1,080 listings and the last is July 26, 2014. Voters, we need professional people for our people to work with, to learn from. You have to play with people better than you are if you want to get better. Vote for professionals, candidates that have the experience the CNMI desperately needs.

Candidates, get online!

Jesus Taisague, Edward Deleon Guerrero, Ralph Yumul and Janet Maratita, I see your signs but I don't see any information on what you will do for us if we elect you. Even FB is OK if you post your positions on the issues so we can make an informed choice.

Be careful, though. Jovita M. Taimanao wrote in her official Senate page Mission Statement, *My mission is accomplishing the goals and objectives that I planned to achieve during my terms in office. Those goals and objectives include instilling public trust in the government through transparency, effective communications, trust, accountability, mutual decisions, and win-win situations…* She voted for secrecy on the casino bill.

George Camacho. Last year he tried to get a revenue-generating, just one of over 100 such bills, House Bill 17-73 through, which sought to lift excise tax exemptions for laptop and desktop computers worth less than $5,000, which languished in the House, after the bill was amended in the Senate, to include a provision exempting tourists from the 30-percent gaming machine jackpot tax for winnings in licensed casinos, to help entice them to visit and gamble in the CNMI. The bill has sat idle ever since. That was terrific but he votes with the casino guys. That was terrible, and secretive. By the way, Las Vegas, Manila, and Macau get their tax before the winner even leaves the building. Why do we always give all our potential tax money away?

Sen. Frank Cruz, Ray Yumul, Ray Tebuteb, Edmund Villagomez, and Frank Dela Cruz are true representatives of the people and should be retained. Throw all the rest of the bums out. If a man or woman is more worried about their job than their integrity, the CNMI doesn't need them.

Gary DuBrall
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Damaging winds. North winds 25 to 35 mph increasing to 35 to 45 mph in the afternoon. Cloudy with occasional locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

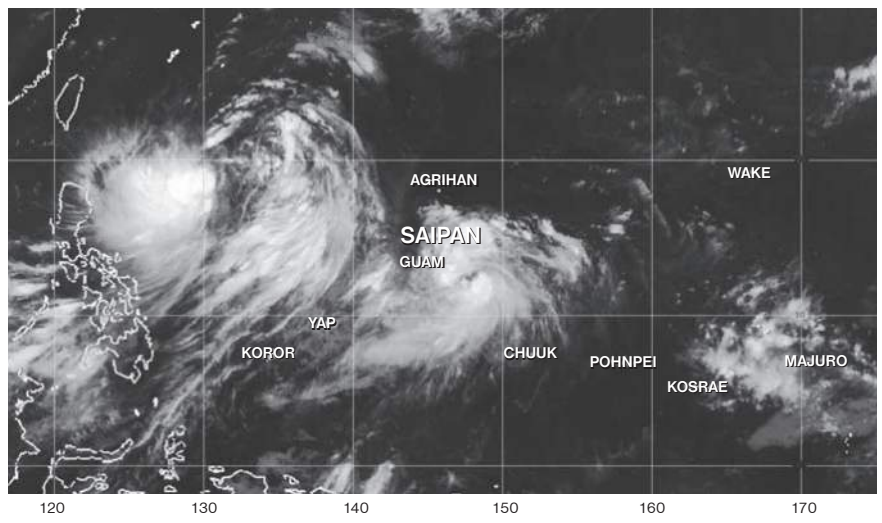
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼80
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼75
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼69
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲61	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼66
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼61
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼74
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼58
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼71
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲85	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly upgraded Tropical Storm 11W is centered east-southeast of Guam at 12N148E moving west-northwest at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen around the center near the southern Mariana Islands within 65 miles of a line from 15N149E to 14N147E to 12N147E to 12N149E. For more information on Tropical Storm 11W, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough reaches southeastward from a tropical disturbance centered east of Luzon near 18N131E through Tropical Storm 11W to a weak circulation centered near Kosrae at 7N163E then continues eastward to beyond 180 at 6N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and disturbance north of Koror and Yap between 12N and 23N from 130E to 140E. Converging monsoon winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Guam within 80 miles of a line from 13N142E to 10N143E and also northwest of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 7N141E to 10N150E. Similar weather is also found across the Marshall islands within 190 miles of a line from 9N166E to 2N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:54 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:20 AM	8:49 PM
Thursday	9:07 AM	9:28 PM
Friday	9:54 AM	10:06 PM
Saturday	10:43 AM	10:47 PM
Sunday	11:33 AM	11:29 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

Medicare's own health looking better, report says

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare's financial future is looking brighter despite a growing wave of baby boomers reaching retirement.

Getting relief from a slowdown in health care spending, the program's giant hospital trust fund won't be exhausted until 2030, the government said Monday. That's four years later than last year's estimate.

As for Social Security, its massive retirement program will remain solvent until 2034, although disability benefits are in more immediate danger. The disability trust fund now is projected to run dry in just two years. At that point, unless Congress acts, the program will collect only enough payroll taxes to pay 81 percent of benefits.

Trustees issued their annual report Monday on the financial health of the government's two largest benefit programs, which together accounted for 41 percent of all federal spending last year. Though both are "fundamentally secure," said Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, "The reports also remind us of something we all understand: We must reform these programs if we want to keep them sound for future generations."

Meanwhile, the trustees are projecting a 1.5 percent increase in monthly Social Security payments to beneficiaries next year. That would be among the lowest since automatic adjustments were adopted in the 1970s. The increase will be based on a government measure of inflation.

Medicare's Part B monthly premium for outpatient care is expected to remain unchanged for 2015, at $104.90. Average premiums for prescription coverage are expected to increase by less than $2 a month.

Medicare's hospitalization deductible is projected to rise to $1,248 in 2015, an increase of $32 from this year.

On balance, the report could help Democratic candidates in the midterm congressional elections. Republicans won the House in 2010 campaigning hard on a message that President Barack Obama's health law would gut Medicare. But that's not what has happened. White House spokesman Josh Earnest pointedly noted that Medicare's hospital trust fund has gained 13 years of solvency since Obama took office.

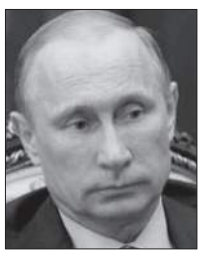
AP

Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell, center, flanked by Treasury Secretary and Managing Trustee Jacob J. Lew, left, and Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez, speaks at a news conference at the Treasury Department in Washington, Monday, July 28, 2014, to discuss the release of the annual Trustees Reports.

Russia ordered to pay $50 billion over Yukos

LONDON (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin's government must pay $50 billion for using tax claims to destroy Yukos, once the country's largest oil producer, and its Kremlin-critical CEO, an international court has ruled.

Monday's verdict by the Permanent Court for Arbitration increases the economic and diplomatic isolation of Russia at a time when it faces new, potentially painful sanctions from Western powers.



Putin

The court, a body that rules on corporate disputes, said the Russian government owes the money—a huge sum, even for such an oil-rich nation- to the former majority shareholders in Yukos Oil Co.

Moscow vowed to fight the decision, raising the prospect of a new round of legal battles as the shareholders seek to enforce the decision by seizing Russian state-owned assets in 150 countries around the world.

They can attempt to seize any assets used for commercial purposes. That means that while embassies are safe, planes, art, commercial property, gas pipelines and oil rigs are not.

"It's the end of the beginning," said Tim Osborne, executive director of GML, formerly Group Menatep Ltd., whose subsidiaries brought the suit to the court based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The court said Russia had used tax claims to take control of Yukos in 2003 and silence its CEO, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, an opponent of Putin who had begun to use his vast wealth to fund opposition parties challenging Putin's power. Khodorkovsky was arrested at gunpoint as he boarded a plane in Siberia that year and spent more than a decade in prison as Yukos' main assets were sold to a state-owned company. Yukos ultimately went bankrupt.

Bank of Hawaii posts $41.5M net income in Q2

» Board of directors declares dividend of $0.45 per share

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corp. reported yesterday diluted earnings per share of $0.94 for the second quarter of 2014, up from $0.87 in the previous quarter and $0.85 in the same quarter last year. Net income for the second quarter of 2014 was $41.5 million, an increase of $2.9 million or 7.5 percent compared with net income of $38.6 million in the first quarter of 2014, and up $3.7 million or 9.9 percent from net income of $37.8 million in the second quarter of 2013.

Loan and lease balances increased to $6.4 billion at June 30, 2014, up 3.5 percent from March 31, 2014, and 9.7 percent compared with June 30, 2013. Deposit growth remained strong during the quarter, as balances increased to $12.7 billion at June 30, 2014, up 5.2 percent from March 31, 2014, and 10.7 percent from June 30, 2013.

"Bank of Hawaii Corporation continued to perform well during the second quarter of 2014," said Peter Ho, chairman, president, and CEO. "Loan balances grew and we continue to increase customer deposits. Our margin was relatively stable at 2.86 percent, asset quality continued its strong trend, and expenses remain well controlled."

The return on average assets for the second quarter of 2014 was 1.17 percent, up from 1.12 percent in the previous quarter and during the same quarter last year. The return on average equity for the second quarter of 2014 was 15.87 percent, an increase from 15.15 percent for the first quarter of 2014 and 14.64 percent in the second quarter of 2013.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2014, net income was $80.1 million, an increase from net income of $73.7 million during the same period last year. Diluted earnings per share were $1.81 for the first half of 2014, up from diluted earnings per share of $1.65 for the first half of 2013. The year-to-date return on average assets for the six-month period ended June 30, 2014 was 1.14 percent, up from 1.10 percent for the same six months in 2013. The year-to-date return on average equity was 15.51 percent, up from 14.37 percent for the six months ended June 30, 2013.

Total assets were $14.84 billion at June 30, 2014, up from total assets of $14.26 billion at March 31, 2014 and $13.73 billion at June 30, 2013.

Total loans and leases increased to $6.43 billion at June 30, 2014, up from $6.21 billion at March 31, 2014 and $5.86 billion at June 30, 2013.

Total deposits were $12.67 billion at June 30, 2014, up from $12.04 billion at March 31, 2014 and $11.45 billion at June 30, 2013. ***(BOH)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FAA proposes to fine Southwest Airlines $12M

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration said Monday it is proposing a $12 million civil fine against Southwest Airlines for failing to comply with safety regulations related to repairs on Boeing 737 jetliners. The FAA said that beginning in 2006 Southwest made "extreme makeover" alterations to eliminate potential cracking of the aluminum skin on 44 jetliners. An FAA investigation determined that Southwest's contractor, Aviation Technical Services Inc. of Everett, Washington, failed to follow proper procedures for replacing the fuselage as well as other work on the planes, the agency said. All of the work was done under the supervision of Southwest, which was responsible for seeing that it was done properly, the FAA said.

Zillow buying Trulia to build real estate titan

NEW YORK (AP)—Zillow and Trulia, two companies that changed the way people shop for homes, are combining. Real estate website operator Zillow Inc. is buying its rival in a $3.5 billion deal that will make the biggest player in the online real estate information market. Zillow will also become king of real estate listings available on smartphones and tablets—the fastest growing area for listings. Both Zillow and Trulia were founded nearly a decade ago and have capitalized on Americans' increasing preference for researching purchases, including homes, online, rather than relying solely on a real estate agent. "It's a very sound business move by Zillow. They wiped out their closest competitor," said Benchmark analyst Daniel Kurnos.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,982.59	1,978.91	4,444.91
+22.02	+0.57	-4.65
0.13%	0.03%	-0.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0643	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Philippine Peso	43.375
British Pound	0.5891	Indian Rupee	60.1205	Singapore Dollar	1.2419
Canadian Dollar	1.081	Indonesian Rupiah	11625	South Korean Won	1024.55
Chinese Yuan	6.1848	Japanese Yen	101.975	Swiss Franc	0.9046
Euro	0.7445	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1745	Taiwan Dollar	29.97
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1745	Thailand Baht	31.81

Nation

US: Russia violated 1987 nuclear missile treaty

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an escalation of tensions, the Obama administration accused Russia on Monday of conducting tests in violation of a 1987 nuclear missile treaty, calling the breach "a very serious matter" and going public with allegations that have simmered for some time.

The treaty confrontation comes at a highly strained time between President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin over Russia's intervention in Ukraine and Putin's grant of asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

An administration official said Obama notified Putin of the U.S. determination in a letter Monday. The finding will be included in a State Department annual report on compliance with arms control treaties that will be released Tuesday.

The U.S. says Russia tested a new ground-launched cruise missile, breaking the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty that President Ronald Reagan signed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Russian officials say they have looked into the allegations and consider the matter closed.

The Obama administration has expressed its concern over possible violations before, but this is the first time that the administration has formally accused Russia of violating the treaty. It comes in the wake of the downed Malaysian airliner in Ukraine and as the U.S. and the European Union seek to ramp up sanctions against Russia, offering the administration a convenient time to release the report which had been due to come out in April.

Two officials said the U.S. is prepared to hold high-level discussions on the issue immediately and want assurances that Russia will comply with the treaty requirements going forward. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issue publicly by name ahead of Tuesday's report.

The New York Times first reported the U.S. move Monday evening.

In raising the issue now, the U.S. appears to be placing increased pressure on Russia and trying to further isolate it from the international community. The European Union and the United States plan to announce new sanctions against Russia this week in the face of U.S. evidence that Russia has continued to assist separatist forces in Ukraine.

The formal finding comes in the wake of congressional pressure on the White House to confront Russia over the allegations of cheating on the treaty. The treaty banned all U.S. and Russian land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 300 miles and 3,400 miles.

The officials said the Obama administration has informed Congress and U.S. allies of its decision to seek Russian compliance.

Indeed, Obama, who has made nuclear disarmament a key foreign policy aim, has little interest in having Russia pull out of the treaty altogether.

Obama won Senate ratification of a New START treaty, which took effect in February 2011 and requires the U.S. and Russia to reduce the number of their strategic nuclear weapons to no more than 1,550 by February 2018.

Obama last year announced that he wants to cut the number of U.S. nuclear arms by another third and that he would "seek negotiated cuts" with Russia, a goal now complicated by the accusation of a missile treaty violation.

AP

In this Dec. 8, 1987, file photo, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, right, shakes hands with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev after the two leaders signed the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty to eliminate intermediate-range missiles during a ceremony in the White House East Room in Washington.

Deal to improve veterans' health care costs $17B

WASHINGTON (AP)—A bipartisan deal announced Monday would authorize about $17 billion to help veterans avoid long waits for health care, hire more doctors and nurses to treat veterans and make it easier to fire executives at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An agreement announced by the chairmen of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees is intended to fix a veterans' health program scandalized by long patient wait times and falsified records covering up delays.

The bill includes $10 billion in emergency spending to make it easier for veterans who can't get prompt appointments with VA doctors to obtain outside care; $5 billion to hire doctors, nurses and other medical staff; and about $1.5 billion to lease 27 new clinics across the country, lawmakers said.

The bill also would expand a scholarship program for veterans, allow all veterans to qualify for in-state college tuition and grant the VA secretary authority to immediately fire senior executives, while providing employees with streamlined appeal rights.

"This bill makes certain that we address the immediate crisis of veterans being forced onto long waiting lists for health care," said Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs panel.

The measure also "strengthens the VA so that it will be able to hire the doctors, nurses and medical personnel it needs so we can permanently put an end to the long waiting lists," Sanders said at a news conference with Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., his House counterpart.

Miller said the bill would "go a long way to resolve the crisis" that is gripping the VA. The agency has been rocked by reports of patients dying while awaiting treatment and mounting evidence that workers falsified or omitted appointment schedules to mask frequent, long delays. The resulting election-year firestorm forced VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign in late May.

Sanders and Miller reached agreement on a plan to reform the VA over the weekend after more than six weeks of sometimes testy talks.

The compromise measure would require the VA to pay private doctors to treat qualifying veterans who can't get prompt appointments at the VA's nearly 1,000 hospitals and outpatient clinics, or those who live at least 40 miles from one of them. Only veterans who are enrolled in VA care as of Aug. 1 or live at least 40 miles away would be eligible to get outside care.

The proposed restrictions are important in controlling costs for the program. Congressional budget analysts had projected that tens of thousands of veterans who currently are not treated by the VA would likely seek VA care if they could see a private doctor paid for by the government.

Doctor who contracted Ebola in grave condition

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Kent Brantly always wanted to be a medical missionary, and he took the work seriously, spending months treating a steady stream of patients with Ebola in Liberia.

Now Brantly is himself a patient, fighting for his own survival in an isolation unit on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia, after contracting the deadly disease.

The Texas-trained doctor says he is "terrified" of the disease progressing further, according to Dr. David Mcray, the director of maternal-child health at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, where Brantly completed a four-year residency.

"I'm praying fervently that God will help me survive this disease," Brantly said in an email Monday to Mcray. He also asked that prayers be extended for Nancy Writebol, an American co-worker who also has fallen ill.

Brantly "went into Ebola exhausted" from treating Ebola patients, Mcray said after speaking with him Monday. His prognosis is grave and efforts to evacuate him to Europe for treatment have been thwarted because of concerns expressed by countries he would have to fly over en route to any European destination, Mcray said.

There is no known cure for Ebola, which begins with symptoms including fever and sore throat and escalates to vomiting, diarrhea and internal bleeding. The disease spreads through direct contact with blood and other bodily fluids as well as indirect contact with "environments contaminated with such fluids," according to the World Health Organization.

Still, colleagues and family members said Brantly, 33, knew of the risks associated with working in one of the world's poorest countries during an epidemic and did not regret his choice.

"Kent prepared himself to be a lifetime medical missionary," said his mother, Jan Brantly. "His heart is in Africa."

ACROSS THE NATION

US Court: Virginia marriage is for all lovers

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Virginia's same-sex marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional on Monday in the first such decision by a federal appellate court in the South. "We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable. However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws," Judge Henry F. Floyd wrote. The 2-1 ruling applies throughout the circuit that also includes West Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas, where the attorneys general split Monday on what they'll do next. Virginians voted 57 percent to 43 percent in 2006 to amend their constitution to ban gay marriage.

Man charged in teen's 9-month disappearance

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire man was arrested Monday and charged with kidnapping 15-year-old Abigail "Abby" Hernandez more than nine months ago sometime after she left Kennett High School in Conway. Nathaniel Kibby, 34, was arrested without incident at his Gorham home, about 30 miles north of where the girl lives, and was charged with felony kidnapping, authorities said. Police allege Kibby knowingly confined Abby, then 14, on Oct. 9, sometime after she left school to walk to her home in North Conway. Abby returned home the night of July 20, but authorities have not explained the circumstances of her return.

Abuse suspect dead; 2 marshals, NY policeman hurt

NEW YORK (AP)—A California man who skipped town after being accused of molesting a boy was killed and three law enforcement officers trying to arrest him were wounded in a daytime shootout inside a small smoke shop in one of New York's most bustling neighborhoods, officials said Monday. The man, Charles Richard Mozdir, was recently featured on a CNN show about fugitives. He was wanted in a San Diego case and was charged with lewd acts upon a child younger than 14, a criminal complaint said. The shootout between Mozdir and members of the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force happened just after 1 p.m. in Greenwich Village not far from New York University.

Police charge 2 men in fatal Philly carjacking

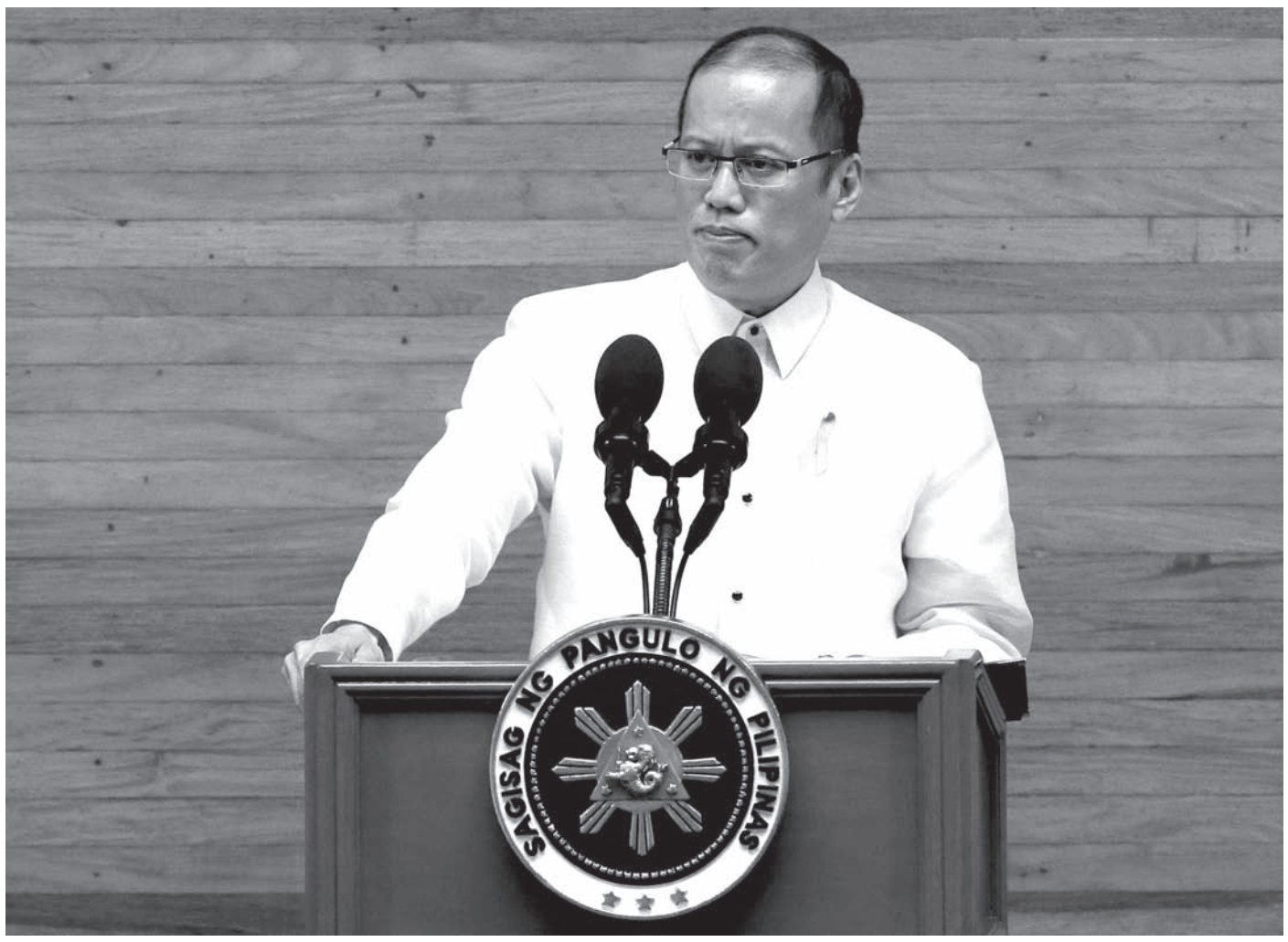
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two men who carjacked a woman and sexually assaulted her in her SUV before plowing into a family selling fruit on a street corner, killing three children, were charged with murder on Monday, police said. Johnathan Rosa and Cornelius Crawford were each charged with three counts of felony murder and other crimes, police announced at a news conference. Police said they believe Rosa, 19, and Crawford, 23, forced a real estate agent into her sport utility vehicle on Friday, then took off at high speed. The three children, killed by the SUV crash about 15 minutes later, were siblings who had been selling fruit for a church fundraiser. Their mother was injured in the crash, as were a friend who was nearby and the carjacked real estate agent.

Asia

Philippine leader: Not even a bomb can stop reform

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An emotional Philippine President Benigno Aquino III called his opponents desperate Monday and expressed confidence that many people will carry on his reforms even if he is stopped by a bomb.

Aquino said in his annual state of the nation address before Congress that he could not avoid thinking somebody may make an attempt on his life because of the kind of people he has crossed in his effort to fight corruption and reform his poor Southeast Asian nation.



AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III pauses as he delivers his 5th State of the Nation Address during the joint session of the 16th Congress at the House of Representatives in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday July 28, 2014.

Aquino's father, an opposition senator who fought dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was assassinated at Manila's international airport while under military custody in 1983. The current president was wounded but survived an ambush by restive Filipino troops during a failed 1987 coup attempt against his mother, then-President Corazon Aquino, at the presidential palace.

"I can't avoid to think that because of who we are colliding with, that there may be a time when we climb the stage and it can be the last day. Will somebody succeed in planting a bomb?" he said in his nationally televised speech.

"Will my opponents with dark plots who want to bring us back to the wrong path succeed?" Aquino asked, adding that he is confident that even if the time comes when his "second life" ends, his reforms would not end.

"I am content because I am sure that when I'm gone, many will take my place and continue what we have started," he said.

He did not say who he feared could threaten his life.

Aquino won the presidency with a wide margin in 2010 on a promise to fight corruption and poverty.

But problems have persisted in a country where nearly a fourth of the 100 million people remain mired in poverty, and left-wing groups dwell on perceived threats to democracy 28 years after a largely nonviolent "people power" revolt ousted Marcos.

Under Aquino, his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, has been detained on vote-rigging charges, allegations she has denied. Three powerful senators, including a former defense secretary who helped enforce Marcos's 1972 imposition of martial rule, have been detained after being indicted on charges of economic plunder. And the Supreme Court chief justice was impeached for allegedly not properly declaring his assets.

Opponents and left-wing groups have accused Aquino of targeting political rivals but coddling allies linked to corruption. The criticism grew after the Supreme Court declared recently that Aquino and his budget secretary's enforcement of a major economic stimulus program in 2011 partly violated the constitution.

Aquino strongly criticized the high tribunal and appealed the decision, which prompted left-wing activists to file an impeachment complaint against him.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen kill 21 Filipinos in road attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf gunmen attacked Filipino civilians traveling to celebrate the end of Ramadan with their families on Monday, killing 21, including at least six children, in a brazen road attack that was the bloodiest in recent years by the violent militant group, police and military officials said.

Eleven other civilians were wounded as the group traveled in two vans in a coastal village in Talipao town in predominantly Muslim Sulu province, where the militants have survived in jungle camps despite years of U.S.-backed Philippine military offensives.

About 40 to 50 Abu Sayyaf militants armed with assault rifles opened fire on the vans, marine Brig. Gen. Martin Pinto and other military officials said. The motive was not immediately clear, but Pinto said some of the dead belonged to a civilian security force and were engaged in a clan feud with the Abu Sayyaf.

Violent clan wars, known as "rido," have complicated security worries in the country's south, which is already mired in decades-long Muslim rebellions.

Officials said they were pursuing the militants after the attack, but there's no word yet if any of them have been killed or captured.

Among those killed in the attack were at least four members of a Talipao civilian security force called Barangay Police Action Team that has been helping the military fight the jungle-based militants in recent months, Pinto said.

Armed forces spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala condemned "this heinous atrocity that victimized innocent civilians," adding that the military "will continue its pursuit operations until those responsible are brought to justice."

"This attack cannot be justified by any ideology and shows the Abu Sayyaf's terroristic nature," Zagala said.

Six of the dead were aged 2 to 15 and four of the wounded are children, including a 3-year-old boy, police and military reports showed. An 83-year-old man was among the dead. Authorities did not discuss the victims' family ties, but their surnames suggest many of the dead and wounded were related.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan to step up sanctions against Russia

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is imposing more sanctions against Russia over its support for pro-Moscow rebels in Ukraine who are accused of shooting down a Malaysian jet, the chief government spokesman said Monday. The sanctions include the freezing of assets held in Japan by individuals and groups supporting the separation of Crimea from Ukraine, as well as restrictions on imports from Crimea, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said. He noted that the steps are in line with measures taken by the European Union and Group of Seven nations. Japan will also follow a recent decision by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to freeze funds for new projects in Russia, Suga said.

HK pro-democracy news site folds, citing pressure

HONG KONG (AP)—A popular Hong Kong pro-democracy website has closed, citing political pressure, the latest sign of mounting tensions as the semiautonomous Chinese city braces for a possible shutdown of its financial center by activists fighting Beijing's desire to limit democratic reforms. In a letter posted on the House News website over the weekend, one of the site's founders said he and his family were "terrified" by Hong Kong's political atmosphere. "To act like a normal citizen, a normal media outlet and to do something right for society is not easy, it's even terrifying," said Tony Tsoi. "The ongoing political struggle makes people very anxious." He said a number of democracy advocates had been followed and smeared.

Pakistani mob attacks minority Muslims, kills 3

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani mob burned down several homes belonging to the minority Ahmadi sect in the country's east, killing a woman and her two granddaughters in riots following rumors about blasphemous postings on Facebook, police said Monday. The rioting in the city of Gujranwala erupted late Sunday after claims that an Ahmadi had posted a blasphemous photo of the Kaaba—the cube-shaped structure in the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which observant Muslims around the world face in prayer five times a day, police official Zeeshan Siddiqi said. He said the photo allegedly contained nudity. The victims died of suffocation, Siddiqi said, adding that another woman miscarried during the riots and was in hospital.

Teens helped each other escape sinking Korean ship

ANSAN, South Korea (AP)—Students who survived the South Korean ferry disaster testified Monday they were repeatedly ordered by loudspeaker to stay in the sinking ship but eventually helped each other flee after finding their cabins were flooded too much.

The six girls spoke at a court session for 15 crew members responsible for the ship's navigation who face charges of negligence and failing to perform their duties to rescue passengers, with four of them facing homicide charges. The students from Danwon High School near Seoul revealed how chaotic the scene on the ferry was, saying they wore life jackets and were helped by friends to float out and leave flooded rooms. One of them said she saw some schoolmates swept away by the waters.

Five of the six students spoke at the courtroom while the rest one gave her testimonies by video at another room. The court asked the media to not identify the teenagers to protect their privacy.

"We continued to wait but only came outside because the water filled the room so much," one student said. She said she heard a message blared from the ferry's loudspeaker that said "`Danwon High school students. Do not move!"

She also recalled how severely the ship listed, saying "The wall became the floor." Another student said "The kids all slid down to the window side . and luggage fell down."

The teenagers said they put on life jackets at the request of a broadcast announcement or at the recommendation of friends. They said they struggled to get out of the cabins due to tumbled furniture but also stepped on them to escape the rooms.

"When I was floating, the room's door was above my head. I came out of the cabin as a friend of mine outside grabbed my hands while another friend took my hip and lifted me up," one student said. "After we got out of the room, we lined up at a corridor and we told each other not to cry."

World

Hamas, Israel trade blame for deaths of 9 children

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas and Israel blamed each other for an explosion at a Gaza park Monday that killed at least 10 Palestinians—including nine children playing on a swing—in a horrific scene that underscored the heavy price civilians are paying in the conflict.

Israel's military said a rocket misfired by Gaza militants was responsible, and it later released aerial photos that it said showed the weapon's path. Gaza officials blamed Israeli airstrikes.

The blast took place on the first day of Eid al-Fitr, a Muslim holiday that marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Afterward, dozens of Palestinians crowded the spot at the park in the Shati refugee camp northwest of Gaza City, where pools of blood could be seen on the ground. Some cried out, pleading for God's mercy.

Witnesses said the youngsters had been playing on a swing set.

"The children were playing and were happy, enjoying Eid, and they got hit. Some lost their heads, others their legs and hands," Nidal Aljerbi, a witness, told The Associated Press.

Another man stood beside a pool of blood and cried: "We don't want an agreement. We don't want a cease-fire. All of us, children, women, will give our souls for God!"

AP

A Palestinian carries the body of a child at the morgue in Gaza City's Shifa hospital, in the northern Gaza Strip, Monday, July 28, 2014.x

In a hectic scene, Palestinians shed tears outside the doors of the morgue at Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, and relatives crammed into the hall. The bodies of three children lay on shelves in the mortuary, their clothes heavily bloodstained, their flesh torn by shrapnel.

The strikes occurred on a day of heavy fighting after a temporary humanitarian cease-fire. At the same time, international efforts to end the three-week war intensified.

The streets near the park were strewn with shattered glass from homes and shops, and the ground was marked with the bloody footprints of those who helped carry the bodies to ambulances.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli army spokesman, denied Israel was involved. "This incident was carried out by Gaza terrorists whose rockets fell short," he said.

Early Tuesday, the military released aerial photographs that it said showed the paths of two misfired rockets that hit the Shifa Hospital and the park. It said the paths were detected by Israeli military radar and sensors.

Lerner said that since the start of the fighting, Israel has identified about 200 failed rocket launches that struck within the Gaza Strip.

In a text message, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the killings would be avenged.

"The massacre against the children in Shati refugee camp is a war crime," Zuhri said. "Such a crime is a result of the silence of the international community. This crime will not break our will, and the occupation will pay the price."

Source: ESRI, Israeli Defense Forces
Graphic: Tyler Davis © 2014 MCT

The United Nations on Monday called for an immediate cease-fire in the fighting that has killed at least 1,085 Palestinians, 52 Israeli soldiers and three civilians on the Israeli side.

The United Nations says civilians make up more than three-fourths of the dead and a majority of the wounded. Children account for at least 30 percent of the casualties, according to UNICEF, the U.N. children's agency.

In another tragic episode involving children, four Palestinian boys, cousins ages 9 to 11, were killed July 16 on a beach west of Gaza City by shellfire from a navy ship. Israel later apologized for the deaths.

Israel blames the civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing it of firing from residential neighborhoods and using civilians as human shields.

The Israeli military says it is doing its utmost to spare civilians, including issuing evacuation warnings to homes and neighborhoods that are about to be hit in Israel's air and ground operation.

Fighting in Ukraine prompts residents to flee

SHAKHTARSK, Ukraine (AP)—Panicky residents in an eastern Ukrainian town fled their homes Monday carrying a few possessions in plastic bags and small suitcases as shells exploded in the distance, fighting that also prevented an international police team from reaching the area where the Malaysia Airlines plane was downed.

"Mom, hang in there," exclaimed a weeping woman who was fleeing Shakhtarsk with her mother. Associated Press reporters saw a high-rise apartment block in the town being hit by at least two rounds of artillery.

The fighting there and elsewhere in the area kept Dutch and Australian police for the second day from reaching the site where the plane crashed after being shot from the sky. They had planned to begin searching for remaining bodies and gathering forensic evidence and the delay strained tempers among international observers.

"There is a job to be done," said Alexander Hug, the deputy head of a monitoring team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. "We are sick and tired of being interrupted by gunfights, despite the fact that we have agreed that there should be a ceasefire."

The plane was downed on July 17 while flying over a part of eastern Ukraine where government forces and pro-Russia separatist rebels have been fighting for months. Ukrainian and Western officials say the plane was shot down by a rebel missile, most likely by mistake, and that Russia supplied the weapon or trained rebels to use it. Both the rebels and Moscow deny that.

A Ukrainian official said Monday that data from the recovered flight recorders show that Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 crashed due to a massive, explosive loss of pressure after being punctured multiple times by shrapnel. Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for Ukraine's national security council, said the plane suffered "massive explosive decompression" after it was hit by fragments he said came from a missile.

There were signs that government forces were gaining some ground in their fight with the rebels.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said Ukrainian troops entered Shakhtarsk, although checkpoints blocking the western entrance into town remain under rebel control. It also said fighting was taking place in Snizhne, which lies directly south of the crash site, and in other towns in the east.

Meanwhile rebels in Donetsk said on Twitter that fighting took place in the village of Rozsypne, where some of the wreckage still lays strewn and uncollected.

UN rights chief: Flight 17 possible war crime

GENEVA (AP)—The downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 may be a war crime, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said Monday.

Pillay, the U.N.'s top human rights official, called for a thorough investigation into the violation of international law that occurred when the flight was shot down with a surface-to-air missile over a part of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian separatists on July 17, killing all 298 people on board.

Pillay's comments coincided with a new report by her office that says at least 1,129 people had been killed and 3,442 wounded in Ukraine's fighting as of Saturday, and more than 100,000 have fled the violence since April.

"This violation of international law, given the prevailing circumstances, may amount to a war crime," Pillay said of the downed jetliner, which U.S. and Ukrainian officials say was shot down by a missile from rebel territory, most likely by mistake.

"It is imperative that a prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigation be conducted into this event," she said.

Fighting over the weekend prevented a team of Dutch and Australian police officers from visiting the crash site to start searching for evidence and the remaining bodies. The Dutch government said a team of 26 forensic experts left Donetsk for the crash site on Monday.

A full-fledged investigation still has not begun at the crash site. Some bodies are still unrecovered and the site has been forensically compromised.

The report by the U.N.'s team of 39 field monitors in Ukraine says there has been an alarming buildup of heavy weaponry in civilian areas of Donetsk and Luhansk—including artillery, tanks, rockets and missiles that are being used to inflict increasing casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

The report says such attacks could amount to violations of international humanitarian law.

Gianni Magazzeni, head of the U.N. office's branch that oversees Ukraine, told reporters in Geneva that all governments must respect "the presumption of innocence of civilians."

"There is an increase in the use of heavy weaponry in areas that are basically surrounded by public buildings," he said. "All international law needs to be applied and fully respected."

Wouter Oude Alink, an expert at Leiden University's International Institute of Air and Space Law in the Netherlands, said shooting down the airliner and killing all 298 people onboard violates the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, including an important addition to it ratified by Russia and Ukraine, and the 1945 U.N. Charter.

New fears about Ebola spread after plane scare

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—No one knows for sure just how many people Patrick Sawyer came into contact with the day he boarded a flight in Liberia, had a stopover in Ghana, changed planes in Togo, and then arrived in Nigeria, where authorities say he died days later from Ebola, one of the deadliest diseases known to man.

Now health workers are scrambling to trace those who may have been exposed to Sawyer across West Africa, including flight attendants and fellow passengers.

Health experts say it is unlikely he could have infected others with the virus that can cause victims to bleed from the eyes, mouth and ears. Still, unsettling questions remain: How could a man whose sister recently died from Ebola manage to board a plane leaving the country? And worse: Could Ebola become the latest disease to be spread by international air travel?

Sawyer's death on Friday has led to tighter screening of airline passengers in West Africa, where an unprecedented outbreak that emerged in March has killed more than 670 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. But some health authorities expressed little confidence in such precautions.

"The best thing would be if people did not travel when they were sick, but the problem is people won't say when they're sick. They will lie in order to travel, so it is doubtful travel recommendations would have a big impact," said Dr. David Heymann, professor of infectious diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"The important thing is for countries to be prepared when they get patients infected with Ebola, that they are isolated, family members are told what to do and health workers take the right steps."

The World Health Organization is awaiting laboratory confirmation after Nigerian health authorities said Sawyer tested positive for Ebola, WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said. The WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions since the outbreak came to light.

"We would have to consider any travel recommendations very carefully, but the best way to stop this outbreak is to put the necessary measures in place at the source of infection," Hartl said. Closing borders "might help, but it won't be exhaustive or foolproof."

The risk of travelers contracting Ebola is considered low because it requires direct contact with bodily fluids or secretions such as urine, blood, sweat or saliva, experts say. Ebola can't be spread like flu through casual contact or breathing in the same air.

Focus

Israel targets SYMBOLS of HAMAS control in Gaza

AP
Israeli forces' flares light up the night sky of Gaza City on early Tuesday, July 29, 2014.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli aircraft, tanks and navy gunboats targeted symbols of Hamas control in Gaza City early Tuesday in the heaviest night of bombardment in three weeks of Israel-Hamas fighting after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "prolonged" campaign in Gaza.

The overnight strikes hit the home of the top Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, as well as government offices and the headquarters of the Hamas satellite TV station.

Israeli forces fired hundreds of flares that turned the night sky bright orange. By daybreak Tuesday, a cloud of thick dust from the explosions hung over Gaza City.

A Palestinian health official put the overall Gaza death toll at 1,110. Israel has lost 53 soldiers, including four killed Monday in a mortar attack in southern Israel, along with two civilians and a Thai national.

Signaling an escalation of Israel's Gaza operation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israelis Monday to be ready for a "prolonged" war, and the military warned Palestinians in three large neighborhoods to leave their homes and head immediately for Gaza City.

At dawn Tuesday, plumes of smoke rose above the Al Shorouq media building in central Gaza City which houses the offices of the Hamas-run Al Aqsa television and radio. Hours earlier, at least two major explosions hit the media building, one of the tallest in Gaza, starting a fire on the roof and and shaking surrounding buildings.

AP video showed a massive flash as the first strike hit the top of the building, sending debris raining down. The building also houses offices of a number of Arab satellite television news channels.

The Abu Khadra government complex in Gaza City was also badly damaged by the Israeli attacks.

Hamas leaders remained defiant in the aftermath of the Israeli onslaught

"My house is not more valuable than the houses of other people, destroying stones will not break our determination," Haniyeh said in a statement.

Netanyahu defended the Gaza air and ground offensive, saying in a televised speech Monday that "there is no war more just than this."

The overnight strikes came after a day of heavy Hamas-Israeli fighting in which nine children were killed by a strike on a Gaza park where they were playing, according to Palestinian health officials—a tragedy that each side blamed on the other.

Israeli tanks also resumed heavy shelling in border areas of Gaza, killing five people, including three children and a 70-year-old woman, and wounding 50 in the town of Jebaliya, which was among the areas warned to evacuate, the Red Crescent said.

Many Jebaliya residents said they did not dare attempt an escape. Sufian Abed Rabbo said his extended family of 17 had taken refuge under the stairway in their home.

"God help us. We have nothing to do but pray," the 27-year-old told The Associated Press by phone. "I don't know who left and who stayed, but in our street, we are all very scared to move."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern about the reports of Israeli forces dropping leaflets over northern Gaza Monday evening warning tens of thousands of residents to leave their homes and evacuate to Gaza City, according to a statement released by his spokesman.

"If true, this would have a further devastating humanitarian impact on the beleaguered civilians of those areas of the Gaza Strip, who have already undergone immense suffering in recent days," it said. "The United Nations agencies present in Gaza do not have the resources on the ground to cope with, or provide assistance to, an enormous extra influx of desperate people."

The latest bloodshed came despite mounting international calls for a cease-fire and followed failed attempts by both sides to agree to even a lull in fighting of several hours for the start of the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid el-Fitr that marks the end of Ramadan.

The Hamas-run health ministry said 10 people, including nine children under the age of 12, were killed and 46 wounded in the blast at a park in the Shati refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza City.

Each side blamed the other.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman, said the explosion was caused when a rocket launched by Gaza militants misfired and landed in the park. Palestinian police and civil defense said an Israeli missile hit as children were playing on a swing set.

"The children were playing and were happy, enjoying Eid, and they got hit," said Nidal Aljerbi, a witness.

After three weeks of bloodshed, both Israel and Hamas are holding out for bigger gains and a cease-fire remains elusive, despite an appeal by the U.N. Security Council and growing pressure from the United States.

Israel says its troops will not leave Gaza until they have demolished scores of Hamas military tunnels under the Gaza-Israel border that militants use to infiltrate Israel and smuggle weapons. Hamas says it will not cease fire until it receives international guarantees Gaza's 7-year-old border blockade by Egypt and Israel will be lifted.

Israel has said it is defending its citizens against attack from Gaza by hitting Hamas rocket launchers, weapons storage sites and military tunnels. However, there is growing U.S. frustration with the mounting number of Palestinian casualties—the vast majority of them civilians.

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have been pressing Israel to accept an immediate and unconditional humanitarian cease-fire.

The Obama administration pushed back Monday against a torrent of Israeli criticism over Kerry's latest bid to secure a cease-fire with Hamas, accusing some in Israel of launching a "misinformation campaign" against the top American diplomat.

"It's simply not the way partners and allies treat each other," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Her comments were echoed by the White House, where officials said they were disappointed by Israeli reports that cast Kerry's efforts to negotiate a cease-fire as more favorable to Hamas.

Israel had accepted an Egyptian call for an unconditional cease-fire early in its Gaza campaign, but Hamas rejected the idea.

Netanyahu said Monday that Israel won't end its offensive until Hamas' network of tunnels under the Gaza-Israel border has been neutralized. "We need to be ready for a prolonged campaign," he said. "We will continue to act aggressively and responsibly until the mission is completed to protect our citizens, soldiers and children."

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri responded defiantly. "His threats do not scare Hamas or the Palestinian people, and the occupation will pay the price for the massacres against civilians and children," he said.

Israel's last major Gaza invasion ended in January 2009 after 23 days, one-third of that time with troops on the ground. Already, the current ground operation, which began 11 days ago, has lasted longer than the one in 2009.

In recent days, Israeli leaders have debated whether to withdraw from Gaza after the tunnels are demolished, or to expand the ground operation to deliver a more painful blow against Hamas. Those in favor of an escalation have argued that unless Hamas is toppled and disarmed, a new round of Israel-Gaza fighting is inevitable. Opponents say attempting to reoccupy densely populated Gaza, even if for a short period, could quickly entangle Israel politically and militarily and drive up the number of dead.

Campus Life

AP

In this July 16, 2014 photo, students in an Upward Bound program that serves as a pathway to college for students from low-income families, walk to lunch on their campus in the Bronx borough of New York.

At 50, Upward Bound still opens pathway to college

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Nervous but determined, the 15-year-old boy walked into a conference room in Columbus, Ohio, for a fateful interview. If it went well, perhaps he'd have a chance to be the first member of his impoverished family to attend college.

That was 34 years ago, but Wil Haygood—the renowned journalist and author whose writing inspired the film "The Butler"—says he remembers it "like it was yesterday."

"I knew in my heart and soul that this was a monumental moment for little Wil Haygood," he recalled.

At stake was a place in Upward Bound—founded as an experimental program in 1964 as part of Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty with a goal of helping students from low-income families get a college education.

A few weeks after his interview, Haygood received a letter accepting him in the Upward Bound college prep program taking place that summer of 1970 on the campus of Ohio Dominican University. "The college wasn't but a few miles from our housing project, but as a poor kid, you never set foot there," Haygood said. "It was as if I had been lifted up and taken to an oasis."

Haygood flourished during three summers in the federally funded program and credits the professors there—and their tough-love approach—with girding him to succeed in college.

"They didn't allow us to make excuses because we were black or poor," he said. "They said when you get to college, it will be 10 times harder."

Haygood went on to thrive at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, graduating in 1976 and returning last year to give the commencement speech.

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of Upward Bound. It served 2,061 participants at 17 locations in 1965; last year it served about 76,000 students at more than 1,000 locations in 50 states.

In all, more than 2 million people have participated—studying English literature and composition, math and science, and getting practical advice on college admissions. Upward Bound alumni include Oprah Winfrey, actresses Viola Davis and Angela Bassett, ABC News correspondent John Quinones, and Democratic political strategist Donna Brazile.

"It's a 50-year-old program that continues to pay back—giving us hope and teaching so many lessons along the way," said Maureen Hoyler, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education. The nonprofit council, formed in 1981, represents more than 1,000 colleges and agencies that have supported Upward Bound and its affiliated programs.

One of the keys to Upward Bound's success is that its local programs are conducted at college campuses, whether it's after-school and weekend sessions during the school year or residential summer programs.

"The fact that we get to live on campus is really cool—it gives you an idea of what college is like," said Ruthy Pierre, a 16-year-old New Yorker attending a second summer of Upward Bound. Her program is run by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and hosted during the summer by the College of Mount Saint Vincent on a verdant campus in the Bronx overlooking the Hudson River.

Ruthy, of American and Haitian descent, lives with her single mom and will be a junior this fall at Information Technology High School in Queens. She aspires to be a lawyer but hasn't ruled out a mid-career switch to being a chef.

Upward Bound, she says, "opens up opportunities we wouldn't get otherwise."

Among her 56 classmates in the six-week summer program was Corinne Lopez, 15, who hopes for a career combining her interests in graphic arts and forensic science. Her parents came to the U.S. from South America with college educations, but have struggled to find commensurate jobs in New York; Corinne's father works as a doorman in Manhattan.

"It's been hard for them," Corrine said. "I've had everything given to me. I have to return the favor—graduate, become successful and help them in the future."

The summer program's schedule is intensive, with classes and study halls filling most of the day on Mondays through Thursdays before the students go home for three-day weekends. Karen Texeira—who's directed the John Jay program for 25 years—makes sure to include a few outings, such as this summer's foray to Broadway to see "Motown: The Musical."

She encourages the students to have fun amid all the hard work, though some rules are strictly enforced. There's automatic expulsion, for example, for any boy or girl found in the dorm rooms reserved for the opposite sex.

Texeira's second-in-command is counselor Omar Abdullah, 32, who grew up in Harlem, was an Upward Bound student himself in the late 1990s, and is now pursuing a master's degree in public administration.

"Before I did Upward Bound, I was really shy—too shy to place an order at McDonald's," he said. "At Upward Bound, you had to break out of that shell."

"What I took out of it especially was the friendships. It's like a family to us—24 hours a day, four days a week," he said. "The last day of the program, kids are crying. Some of them don't want to go home."

Throughout its history, Upward Bound has compiled a strong record of success. Of the students who take part for at least three years, more than 90 percent go directly to college after completing high school.

That level of performance has earned Upward Bound strong bipartisan support in Congress, yet the program nonetheless faces fiscal challenges because of the broader turmoil on Capitol Hill.

The program's budget, which started out at $6 million 50 years ago, reached an all-time high of almost $327 million in 2012, but was trimmed by about 5 percent last year along with many other federal programs. As a result, enrollment dropped to 75,996 students, down from an all-time high of 79,672 in 2012.

"How do you do more with less?" asked Maureen Hoyler, describing a budget-related struggle to recruit and train professional staff capable of overseeing the academic program and providing advice on how to get into college, pay for it, and flourish while there.

She said Upward Board's role in college guidance has become increasingly crucial as many of the high schools supplying students to the program have cut back on their own guidance efforts.

"We want our students to make an informed choice," Hoyler said. "We also want them to stay in college once they go. They need to be able to ask for help."

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of Upward Bound students must come from families with incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level and in which neither parent graduated from college. Some are homeless or live in group homes or foster homes, and about 75 percent are minorities.

Lois Vosika-Weir, who grew up in a low-income housing project in Minneapolis, is among many Upward Bound alumni with an abiding gratitude to the program. Her mother had four children by 24 and was pregnant with a fifth when her husband deserted the family.

"I was not doing well at all in school," Vosika-Weir said. "My mom found out about Upward Bound and basically had to drag me in there kicking and screaming."

When she started the program as a ninth-grader in 1974, she was reading at fourth-grade level. Yet she was warmly welcomed.

"It sounds cliched, but the adults met me where I was at," said Vosika-Weir, whose voice cracked with emotion in a telephone interview as she recalled those days.

"The director said to me, `You're smart.' At the time I didn't feel smart. ... The people there gave me the confidence I needed to keep putting one foot in front of the other."

The support never wavered, even when she became pregnant as a 16-year-old. She was accepted at the University of Minnesota, got her bachelor's degree, went on to get a master's degree in psychology and now, at 55, is an assistant principal at the American Indian Magnet School in St. Paul. Her three children all have college degrees, including a son pursuing a doctorate in physics.

"Upward Bound was the catalyst," she said.

Likewise, Wil Haygood remains volubly grateful for Upward Bound, even to the point of choosing to write a biography of African-American politician/pastor Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in part because of the congressman's role in establishing the program.

"I felt I owed this man a debt," Haygood said. "If it wasn't for that program, I never would have gone to college."

Life & Style

Fashion industry, retailers, and the gender binary

NEW YORK (AP)—As a transgender woman who began her transition about a year ago, Kylie Jack is still figuring out her fashion style, but she wanted one thing right away: well-fitting bras.

AP

This Jan. 10, 2014 file photo shows Laura Jane Grace, formerly known as Tom Gabel, of the band Against Me!, in New York.

Friends recommended Petticoat Fair in Austin, Texas, where she lives. The lingerie shop is known for one-on-one fittings, but Jack was denied access to the area where professionals work privately with customers after being asked if she was an anatomical female.

Jack, 39, a computer interaction designer, left empty-handed and angry. She took to social media to protest.

"It was unclear whether they had a consistent policy and I didn't know what to make of it," Jack said.

The owner later apologized.

A gender binary exists in fashion, and that's a challenge for those who don't conform. Masculine-presenting women are often destined for boys' departments or bad fits, while people born male who transition or simply like to dress in femme clothes sometimes don't know what to expect in sizing or from sales clerks.

"I was in Filene's Basement in Chelsea, which is pretty much the gayest neighborhood in America, and I said, 'Can I try on clothes here in the men's department?' and they said no. It's not as bad as it used to be but it's pretty persistent. There's this radioactive line between the menswear department and the womenswear department," said Susan Herr, founder of dapperQ, a site on masculine dressing for the LGBTQ community.

Online retailers catering to masculine presenters have proliferated as trans people enjoy a higher profile thanks to Laverne Cox of "Orange is the New Black" and other pioneers.

But mainstream fashion has done little to keep up with large-footed women, petite trans men, masculine-presenting lesbians or androgynous dressers in search of a decent, affordable suit.

At 5-foot-4 and 120 pounds, Gretchen Dukowitz is a lesbian who dresses on the boyish-androgynous side. Her style is casual and she doesn't like shopping online. Her No. 1 go-to place is H&M's boys' section.

"It's always fun to see who will be there, whether it's the moms buying for their kids or the lesbians," she said. "But even in boys' clothes, the fit is not right if you have any hips at all, which I kind of do. It pinches you in weird places. Even though you're buying men's clothing, you still have the shapes of a woman."

Small designers are trying to fill the gap, but often at prices not everyone can afford.

In button-down shirting, for example, menswear is often oversized, tight in the chest or hips. Women's tops may be too tight, too feminine or too short. The label Androgyny offers a signature fit with a "boob button" to minimize gaping, no darts, a slight hourglass curve at the bottom and a center box pleat in back for extra room through the chest and shoulders.

The cost? $125 and up to $150 for limited editions.

The toll is not always financial.

Laura Jane Grace, who fronts the punk band Against Me!, transitioned from male to female in dress onstage in 2012. At 6 foot 2, with a mostly black wardrobe worthy of a rocker, Grace recalls the days before she was "out" and on the hunt for women's clothes.

"It was always kind of terrifying, going out and actually shopping for stuff," said Grace, who lived in small-town Florida before moving to Chicago.

"I can't remember an experience where someone either didn't look at you like you were total scum or have some kind of comment to make," she said, adding: "People look at me like I'm a thief. There's that attention on you from the beginning that always makes for an uncomfortable experience. People watch me from the second I walk into a store that's not specifically like a rock 'n' roll store because I'm covered in tattoos."

Grace usually shops online, shares a women's size 10 shoe with her wife and picks up specialty pieces in boutiques during band road trips.

Mary Going, a masculine-presenting lesbian who's 5 foot 3 and 120 pounds, wanted a formal suit for her 2008 wedding. After fruitless trips to Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Men's Wearhouse, Banana Republic and Macy's, she had one tailor-made for about $1,800.

"I've had cars that cost less than that," said Going. "I loved that suit. I felt great in that suit in a way that I had never felt great in my clothes before. I felt taller. I felt like I got more respect and I don't know if that's because I presented more respectfully or because people really did see me differently."

Going "wanted to offer that same feeling to other people, but without the $1,800 price tag" or the wait. So she founded Saint Harridan, which makes off-the-rack suits with sleek masculine looks for women and transmen.

'Pawn Stars' TV star plans stores near famous shop

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The long parade of tourists who regularly stop by the downtown Las Vegas shop featured on the History Channel reality show "Pawn Stars" could soon have something better to do while waiting in line.

Gold & Silver Pawn Shop co-owner Rick Harrison has drawn up plans for a Pawn Star Plaza shopping center that could boast six restaurants and about 16 small shops. The company's general contractor has submitted the proposal to the city planning department, and a review is expected in September, according to pawn shop general manager Theo Spyer.

"We have always tried to improve our customer experience while waiting in line," Spyer said, pointing to misters, benches and a hot dog stand at the premises. "Now we intend to take it to the next level. We are currently working on a line system that will enable the fans to patronize Pawn Star Plaza without losing their position in line."

The plaza, which Harrison estimates would cost $2 million to build, would consist of several colorful, modular units fit together like a Rubik's Cube. Harrison said he was inspired by Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh's nearby Container Park, which is built out of shipping containers commonly found on trains and barges.

"It was more of the look, flexibility, ease of construction and simplicity of design that created Rick's vision for the space," Spyer said.

The pawn shop, which is open 24 hours a day, is located in a gritty area near bail-bond offices and a now-closed tattoo parlor. Harrison told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that he wants to help rejuvenate the area without using city redevelopment funds.

"I really want to see this part of town do great," he said.

But the prospect of profiting off the steady stream of visitors is also driving the project.

"Making money is my third or fourth most favorite thing in the world," Harrison told the newspaper.

'Of Mice and Men' leaves Broadway on a record high

NEW YORK (AP)—James Franco's play "Of Mice and Men" has left Broadway with a roar—a box office record.

The show, co-starring Chris O'Dowd and Leighton Meester, said Monday it earned $1,038,106 for the week ending Sunday, setting a new eight-performance weekly record gross at the Longacre Theatre and marking the first time the theater ever housed a show that crossed the $1 million mark.

The play, an adaptation of the John Steinbeck novel, follows two tragic migrant workers trying to make their way through the Depression.

The play recouped its $3.8 million capitalization in just 12 weeks and ended its 19-week run Sunday. It is the first American production chosen to be filmed by National Theatre Live.

First Death Anniversary

†Joaquin Sablan Arriola

We, the family of the late †Joaquin Sablan Arriola would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved Husband/Father's passing unto eternal life.
Mass of intention will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church on Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 6:00a.m. Breakfast will follow immediately at Pacific Islands Club.
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
Thank You

Linda, Greg and Family

Take off your clothes to make it in TV

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP
In this photo provided by the Discovery Channel, Jaclyn, left, and Adam eat mandarins while sitting down in a scene from the TV series, "Naked and Afraid."

NEW YORK (AP)—A contestant on a new VH1 dating show didn't beckon a woman to walk in front of him out of politeness. He wanted to check her out from behind and didn't need to use his imagination.

The "Dating Naked" series is the latest example of reality television's newest trend: Nudity is hot, no longer confined to late-night premium cable.

Leading the way is Discovery's "Naked and Afraid," on which a man and woman who don't know each other fend for themselves in the wilderness for three weeks without a stitch between them. That program's success since its June 2013 premiere begat VH1's "Dating Naked" and TLC's real estate show "Buying Naked," with more in the planning stages.

What's the appeal?

Well, what do you think?

In a world of endless choices, titillation lures. So does a catchy title, and the word "naked" jumps off the program guide. Brent Montgomery, who produces the nonfiction hit "Pawn Stars," which airs on the History channel, said many early fans were drawn in by that title even though the show had nothing to do with the image left in your head. He's now doing the spinoff, "Pawnography."

To truly succeed, however, a show needs more going for it to keep viewers once the novelty of watching naked bodies with blurred body parts wears off.

"The secret sauce of our show is not the fact that they're naked," said Denise Contis, West Coast head of production and development at Discovery. "I think it's the storytelling, the cast and a survival experience that's authentic."

Memorable characters make successful shows, "and it takes a big character to take off their clothes in front of a reality TV camera," Montgomery said.

Standards are the same at each show: male and female genitalia are blurred out, along with female breasts. Backsides are fair game. A graphic artist takes about a week to cleanse each episode of "Naked and Afraid." A strategically placed flowerpot or sofa obscures the nude home shoppers in "Buying Naked."

Discovery wasn't searching for a "naked" show when developing "Naked and Afraid," Contis said. It wanted a new twist in the survival genre and, ultimately, the most elemental shelter is clothing.

Yet, let's face it: One hook is the question of whether a romance develops between two naked strangers left alone in the woods (except for the producers and camera crew, of course). It hasn't happened yet. The opposite is more likely: In one upcoming episode the two survivalists detest each other so much they agreed to separate until they were picked up at the end.

Romance is the point of "Dating Naked." Susan Levison, head of programming at VH1, gave the series a green light her first day on the job last September and hurried to beat competitors to the air. Fox has its own naked dating show in the works but put it on hold during a management change.

"The idea of using nudity as a metaphor for allowing yourself to be truly exposed and truly yourself in the search for love felt really fresh and exciting," Levison said.

While the nudity arguably serves a thematic purpose on "Dating Naked" and "Naked and Afraid," it's hard to see "Buying Naked" as anything other than a typical real estate show on which prospective owners leave their clothes at home. TLC says the Florida-based show exposes the habits of a nearby nudist colony.

The "Dating Naked" debut earlier this month featured a woman in her 30s stung when her chosen man was distracted by a younger, gorgeous temptress, an intriguing story for VH1's female-dominated audience. The older woman's name, Wee Wee, trended on Twitter, and the episode's audience of 826,000 easily beat the network's average of 335,000 viewers in the time slot. With more than 4 million viewers, "Naked and Afraid" was Discovery's most-watched series premiere ever.

That explains why plenty of other "naked" pitches are being heard in network boardrooms.

"You'll probably see four or five work and a dozen that don't work," Montgomery said.

The Parents Television Council is dismayed that each of the "naked" shows is judged by its network as being suitable for children. But Tim Winter, president of the lobbying group, which backs family-friendly programming, predicted the trend will be short-lived. Despite the ratings, the shows likely make many advertisers squeamish.

A double-header of biopics for Chadwick Boseman

NEW YORK (AP)—A year after playing Jackie Robinson in "42," Chadwick Boseman was back in biopic spring training.

To become James Brown for the film "Get on Up," Boseman needed to rely on an entirely different skill set. But the preparation necessary to transform into a tireless performer like Brown—"the hardest working man in show business," after all—was oddly reminiscent of working out on the baseball diamond.

"I was like, `This is deja vu,'" says Boseman. "I'm waking up in the morning and lacing them up. Doesn't matter whether it's cleats or if it's leather shoes."

For the second time, Boseman has stepped into some very big ones. A largely unknown actor previously, the 32-year-old Boseman has emerged with back-to-back biopics of 20th century titans: one the revolutionary breaker of baseball's color line, the other the Godfather of Soul. Both were unstoppable forces that blazed across civil rights-era America. One could steal home; the other could do the Mashed Potato.

Tackling one such historical figure is daring; two is audacious. It wasn't Boseman's idea.

"There's no way in the world," Boseman says was his initial reaction to playing Brown, still sounding genuinely resistant to the idea. Not only was playing such a complicated, iconic personality like Brown a fearsome challenge, it also could potentially typecast Boseman in a biopic bubble.

"I felt like if I keep doing this biopic thing, then all I'm going to get is biopics," says Boseman. "I was already getting all biopic scripts."

But director Tate Taylor ("The Help") pressed. He brought Boseman in to read a scene in the movie of Brown at 63 and was immediately won over by the fresh-faced Boseman's ability to transform into the legend late in life.

"I thought: This is the guy. Please let him be able to learn how to dance," said Taylor. But it took weeks of coaxing: "Chad's point of view was, `Nobody should do this. It's just not even possible.'"

"Get on Up," produced by Brian Grazer, had gone through other iterations. At one time, Spike Lee was to direct. Later, Mick Jagger, who frequently crossed paths with Brown and took much inspiration from him, came aboard as a producer. (Jagger is also producing an upcoming documentary about Brown, directed by Alex Gibney.)

The film, which opens in theaters Friday, skips across Brown's expansive life, from the Georgia poverty of his hard upbringing to his more cartoonish and violent later years. (James died in 2006.) "Get on Up," written by the brothers Jez and John-Henry Butterworth, attempts to synthesize all of James' many dimensions: tyrannical bandleader, musical visionary, funk preacher, domestic abuser.

Brown's vocals are used during performances in the movie, but the part required Boseman to play Brown across time and pompadours. He had to find the voice, the moves, the posture and the persona, and hope somewhere in there was the man, too.

"It was all daunting, to be honest with you," sighs Boseman.

With so much research and dance training to fit into two months before shooting began, Boseman had to make a quick study. "They gave me the whole catalog of music and I just sat and listened to every song," he says. "I started with the music because it was so visceral."

Whereas most biopics travel a familiar path, Brown's life resists a typical arc. One memorable early scene shows James, at his label's request, accepting top billing over his early band, the Flames.

"There is a certain amount of cutthroat-ness to him," says Boseman. "But it's like what Little Richard says in the movie: When you see the moment, you have to seize it."

AP
This July 21, 2014 photo shows actor Chadwick Boseman, star of the James Brown film "Get On Up," in New York.

Gaga on Bennett duet CD: Jazz comes easier vs pop

AP

Recording artists Lady Gaga, left, and Tony Bennett, attend a Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga concert taping on Monday, July 28, 2014, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga is a bonafide pop star, but the singer says recording jazz music was easier than pop.

Gaga has spent two years recording an album of jazz standards with Tony Bennett called "Cheek to Cheek," to be released this fall.

"You know, it's funny, but jazz comes a little more comfortable for me than pop music, than R&B music," Gaga said in an interview Monday. "I've sang jazz since I was 13 years old, which is kind of like my little secret that Tony found out. So this is almost easier for me than anything else."

Gaga made the comments with Bennett by her side ahead of the duo's taped performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, where her parents attended.

The 28-year-old and 87-year-old Bennett first collaborated on his Grammy-winning, platinum-selling 2011 album, "Duets II." Bennett said fans will be impressed with Gaga's vocal performance on the upcoming album.

"They're going to say we had no idea she sings that well," he said.

"And they're gonna say they had no idea that Tony dressed so crazy," Gaga added, as Bennett smiled. "When you come out in your meat dress Tony, nobody is going to know what's going on."

"Cheek to Cheek" is Gaga's first release since last year's "Artpop." Bennett released a collaborative album with Latin singers in 2012 called "Viva Duets."

The duo performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival earlier this month and surprised high school students at Bennett's Frank Sinatra School of Arts in Queens last month.

Gaga, who is currently on her "Artrave: The Artpop Ball" tour, says she is "actually happier than I've ever been."

"There's sixty years between us, and when we sing, there's no distance," she added about working with Bennett.

Ronstadt gets answer to 'When Will I Be Loved?'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Singer Linda Ronstadt got the answer to that question she's been asking for decades: "When Will I Be Loved?"

The answer was Monday at the White House, by President Barack Obama, who hung a National Medal of Arts around her neck and revealed, "I had a little crush on her back in the day."

The honor was a particularly special moment for Ronstadt, who didn't make it to her induction to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April since Parkinson's disease limits her ability to travel. A military aide brought her into the East Room by wheelchair, but she walked to the stage to receive her award as a citation was read honoring her "one-of-a-kind voice" that paved the way for generations of women artists.

Eleven other recipients were awarded the 2013 National Medal of Arts, as the nation's highest award given to artists and their patrons, including DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg and Dominican-American writer Julia Alvarez, author of "In the Time of the Butterflies."

Ten were awarded the National Humanities Medal, which honors those in fields including history, literature, languages and philosophy.

AP

President Obama shakes hands with musician Linda Ronstadt in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 28, 2014, where he presented her with a 2013 National Medal of Arts.

Palace of 'Queen of Mean' goes on block for $65M

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP)—The Connecticut mansion that belonged to Leona Helmsley is on the market for $65 million after a three-year renovation.

The mansion known as Dunnellen Hall is on 40 acres in Greenwich with distant views of Long Island Sound.

The Greenwich Time reports (http://bit.ly/1rU6Ntn) that the mansion features an entry room with an elevator and limestone walls and flooring, a 45-foot living room, a library, nine bedrooms, and a game room.

The hotel owner and real estate baroness served 21 months in prison for evading federal taxes by billing her businesses for mansion renovations. Called the "Queen of Mean," she died in the mansion in 2007 at age 87.

In the renovation, a service kitchen, rooms for staff and three swimming pools were removed. An audio-visual system and new landscaping were added.

The Situation agrees to anger management classes

AP

This Sept. 9, 2013 file photo shows reality television star from the MTV Series "Jersey Shore," Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino in New York.

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. (AP)—The Situation will be getting lessons in anger management.

Former "Jersey Shore" star Michael Sorrentino, better known as The Situation, has agreed to take the classes as part of a deal to resolve simple assault charges he faced following a July 15 fight with his brother at their family's tanning salon in Middletown Township.

A municipal court judge Monday accepted the deal and adjourned the matter for three months. If Sorrentino successfully completes the counseling program, the charge against him could be downgraded.

Sorrentino's family—including his brother—attended the court hearing. The family owned Boca Tanning Club is the setting for a new reality show about them.

The cast members of the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore," filmed in Seaside Heights, were known for their love of tanning and the motto GTL, or gym, tan, laundry. They also were known for a rowdy, partying lifestyle that resulted in some cast members getting in fights and some facing legal troubles related to alcohol use.

Family's dirty little secret is better left unexposed

DEAR ABBY: My husband's family are hypocrites! They talk about everyone and their problems, yet when something arises in their family, they want it kept hush-hush.

My sister-in-law, "Gina," had a baby recently. Her husband, "Allan," was suspicious because their sexual relations had stopped years ago. He did a store-bought DNA test (twice) and realized the baby was not his. When he confronted her, she wouldn't tell him who the father is, but said she had discussed the pregnancy with the father, and they had decided it would be best for her to raise the baby as her husband's.

Well, Allan and Gina are now being divorced, and he's having his name removed from the baby's birth certificate. Of course, everyone but me wants this to stay quiet. I want the wife of the man to know, and I want ALL the people my in-laws trash all the time to know!

Perhaps this seems mean, but DANG IT, why shouldn't everyone know that Gina isn't Miss Perfect? What do you think?

TICKED OFF IN LOUISIANA

DEAR TICKED OFF: Please don't act on impulse. I think that as disgusted as you are with your in-laws, you should keep your mouth shut. If you spread this around, it could become the talk of the community and eventually embarrass the CHILD, who is blameless in all this.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a man who has recently fallen in love with a beautiful male-to-female transgender. She considers herself a woman, but on social media lists herself as male.

I am wondering whether I should consider myself gay, bisexual or straight? I always considered myself straight until recently.

NO LONGER SURE IN TEXAS

DEAR NO LONGER SURE: Because the person presents herself to you as female, then you are a straight man who has fallen in love with a transgender woman. If you were attracted only to members of the same sex, then you would be a homosexual. People who are attracted to both men and women are bisexual.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I use public transportation to commute to and from work. I use the time to read and unwind from my day. People often start talking to me, and I find myself trapped for the next 45 minutes listening to an unwelcome monologue about their lives. The fact that I have earplugs in and a book on my lap is no deterrent.

I don't want to be rude. What's the best way to tell someone I prefer to chill out and not listen to his/her ramblings?

BOOKWORM IN CALGARY, CANADA

DEAR BOOKWORM: Smile at the person and say, "I need this time to catch up on my reading." That's asserting your right to privacy, and it's not rude.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

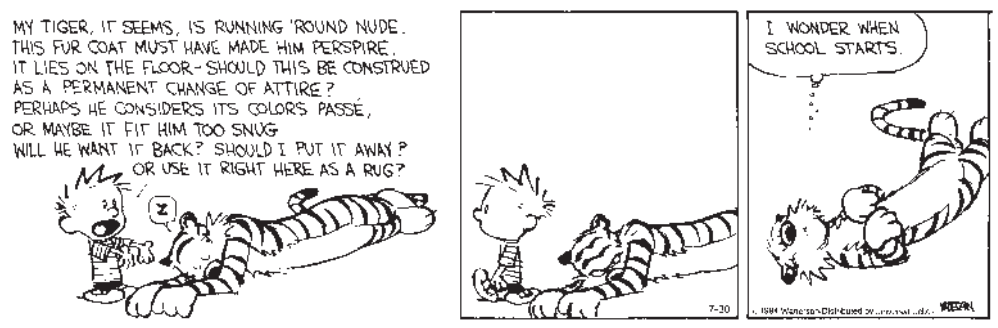
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

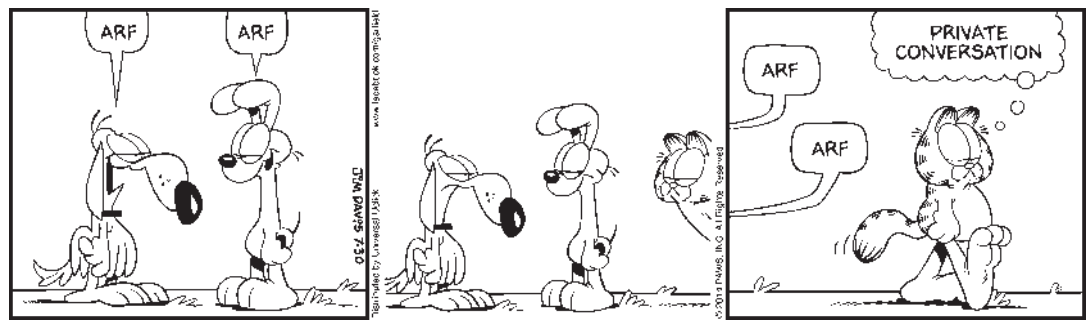
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY TIGER, IT SEEMS, IS RUNNING 'ROUND NUDE.
THIS FUR COAT MUST HAVE MADE HIM PERSPIRE.
IT LIES ON THE FLOOR - SHOULD THIS BE CONSTRUED
AS A PERMANENT CHANGE OF ATTIRE?
PERHAPS HE CONSIDERS ITS COLORS PASSÉ,
OR MAYBE IT FIT HIM TOO SNUG
WILL HE WANT IT BACK? SHOULD I PUT IT AWAY?
OR USE IT RIGHT HERE AS A RUG?
I WONDER WHEN SCHOOL STARTS.
7-30

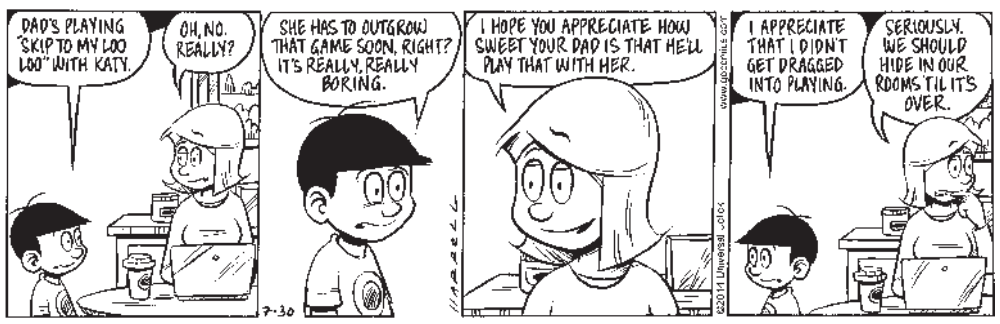
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD'S PLAYING "SKIP TO MY LOO LOO" WITH KATY.
OH, NO. REALLY?
SHE HAS TO OUTGROW THAT GAME SOON, RIGHT? IT'S REALLY, REALLY BORING.
7-30
I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE HOW SWEET YOUR DAD IS THAT HE'LL PLAY THAT WITH HER.
I APPRECIATE THAT I DIDN'T GET DRAGGED INTO PLAYING.
SERIOUSLY. WE SHOULD HIDE IN OUR ROOMS TIL IT'S OVER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Little devil
4 Slightly
8 "Pygmalion" writer
12 Old Oldsmobile
13 Poet Teasdale
14 Melody
15 Reply (Abbr.)
16 Celebration drink
18 Odd
20 Touch lightly
21 Chic beach resort
24 Gossip's tidbit
28 Auricles and ventricles
32 Bargain
33 Abrade
34 Lauder of cosmetics
36 Midnight in Rome?
37 Brewery products
39 Winner
41 Correspond
43 Cable TV sports award
44 "— Wiedersehen"
46 Book of maps
50 Quick change artist?
55 Consumed
56 Rope fiber
57 A Great Lake
58 Carton
59 Line of symmetry
60 Humpty's perch
61 Bond, e.g.

DOWN
1 Mideastern nation
2 Carte
3 Sit for a photog
4 Attribute
5 "Humbug!"
6 George's brother
7 Pack down
8 Ranking
9 Embrace
10 Curry or Coulter
11 Tiny
17 Standard
19 Shade source
22 Family tree fig.
23 One way — other
25 Long skirt
26 Medley
27 Check
28 Pull an all-nighter
29 Island dance
30 Help a hood
31 The Red and the Black
35 Put on a jury
38 Mischief-makers
40 1983 Michael Jackson song
42 Shading
45 Soared
47 Science workshops
48 On
49 Alluring
50 Dance syllable?
51 Whammy
52 Parisian pal
53 Historic period
54 Tin Man's need

Solution time: 23 mins.

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L	O	O	T	■	U	T	A	H	■	M	I	N
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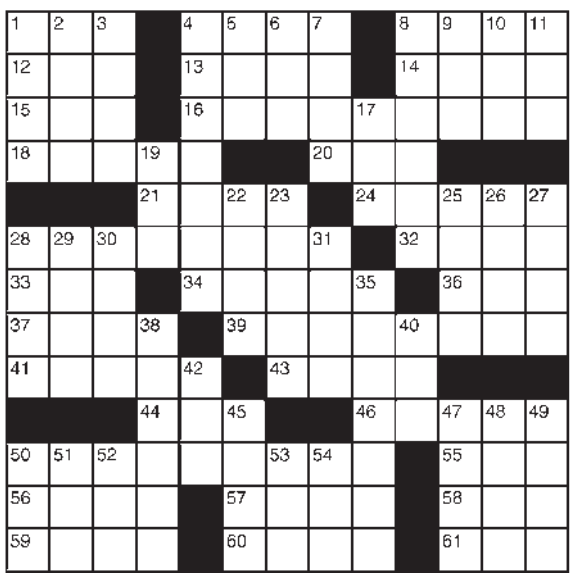
L	A	M	E	■	C	A	I	E	R	I	N	G
A	I	M	■	M	O	L	A	R	■	Z	I	N
P	R	O	V	■	D	E	R	■	L	E	N	A
■	■	R	I	S	F	■	■	B	I	D	F	T
G	A	T	E	S	■	S	W	A	B	■	■	■
O	R	A	■	■	M	M	I	G	R	A	N	T
O	I	L	■	N	O	O	N	■	A	R	E	A
P	A	S	■	G	O	G	O	■	S	E	W	N

Yesterday's answer 7-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey King, 15; Hilary Swank, 40; Laurence Fishburne, 53; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 67.

Happy Birthday: Stabilization and building strong relationships with the people in your life should be your intent. Trust, collaboration and sharing suggestions and advice will protect you from loss. You will be a leader and a driving force, but it's who you have on your team that will make a difference and determine how successful you will be. Your numbers are 3, 14, 26, 32, 35, 40, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do your own thing. Bring about the changes necessary to make you happy or to reach your goals. Set your standards high and strive to maintain the lifestyle you want. Determination can overpower pressure and bullying by others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may be eager to pursue your creative interests, but taking on too much or making promises you cannot keep will cut into your ability to accomplish what you desire most. Organization and preparation will be essential. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Read between the lines and ask questions if you think someone may not be telling you the truth. An introspective approach will work better than overreacting. Refrain from being tempted by products that promise the impossible. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You are the one holding everything together. Home, family and finding creative solutions for the ones you love will help you gain respect and keep you at the pulse of what's going on around you. Self-improvement will lead to compliments. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Financial matters are best dealt with creatively. Invest in something that interests you but also has a seal of approval from those you love or partner with. Knowing your limitations and staying within your means will be critical to your success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do what you can for others, but not at the expense of missing out on something that means a lot to you. Time management will make the difference between success and failure. You can make a difference and reach your goals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A career move may be within reach, but proceed with caution. Get whatever is being offered in writing. Someone is likely to glorify a position in order to grab your interest. Don't feel the need to make an impulsive move. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Consider your options. Stick to what you know and don't take on something that has the potential to take up too much time. A conservative approach when dealing with others will save you from making a promise you'll regret. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen carefully; there will be an emotional undertone to what's being said. Doing things on a large scale will grab attention, but it will also lead to stress. Control your need to push things to the limit. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Share thoughts, but don't be too quick to jump into something without researching. There is money to be made, but only if you don't take unnecessary risks. Focus on partnerships, but don't allow your feelings to lead you down a dubious path. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be given plenty of options and opportunities regarding work-related matters. Consider getting into a partnership with someone you feel can complement your talents. Be careful to draw up a game plan that specifies responsibilities before moving forward. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Money matters will have to be taken care of before you move on to more enjoyable pastimes. Self-improvement projects will pay off. An investment, settlement, inheritance, winning or some other financial gain is apparent. Celebrate your good fortune with someone you love. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, hardworking and cautious. You are kind, generous and charitable. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	4	1	8	3			
		5			7	6	9	
		2			5			3
	5					8		1
6							2	7
7							4	
	4					5		
		3			4			
			6	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	8	5	1	3	2	9	7
9	5	1	2	8	7	3	6	4
7	2	3	4	9	6	5	8	1
1	6	9	3	2	4	8	7	5
8	7	2	6	5	1	9	4	3
5	3	4	8	7	9	6	1	2
4	1	5	9	3	8	7	2	6
3	8	6	7	4	2	1	5	9
2	9	7	1	6	5	4	3	8

Difficulty level ★★ 7/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CABOOSES **Solution: 8 letters**

F	E	C	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	C	A	R	S	O
Y	L	E	O	S	R	E	T	A	E	H	N	N	B	F
R	R	A	L	N	H	O	M	E	O	I	O	A	O	F
E	S	A	T	X	D	G	S	L	A	I	N	T	B	S
T	E	T	I	B	A	U	I	H	T	R	D	T	B	E
T	X	R	O	L	E	A	C	A	E	L	N	A	E	T
A	O	A	F	V	R	D	D	T	A	L	K	C	R	S
B	B	I	G	D	E	O	S	V	O	C	T	H	P	I
R	T	N	N	G	M	A	A	U	E	R	O	E	E	L
A	O	A	A	M	E	T	O	D	P	U	O	D	R	H
K	H	N	O	H	O	Ⓔ	G	N	S	P	L	S	C	C
E	A	C	T	R	Ⓝ	B	R	I	E	T	L	B	H	T
M	C	R	Y	Ⓘ	N	E	A	A	E	E	A	I	L	I
A	O	A	Ⓛ	O	P	U	C	C	E	R	R	E	E	W
N	M	R	O	F	T	A	L	P	K	R	B	G	S	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Strokes

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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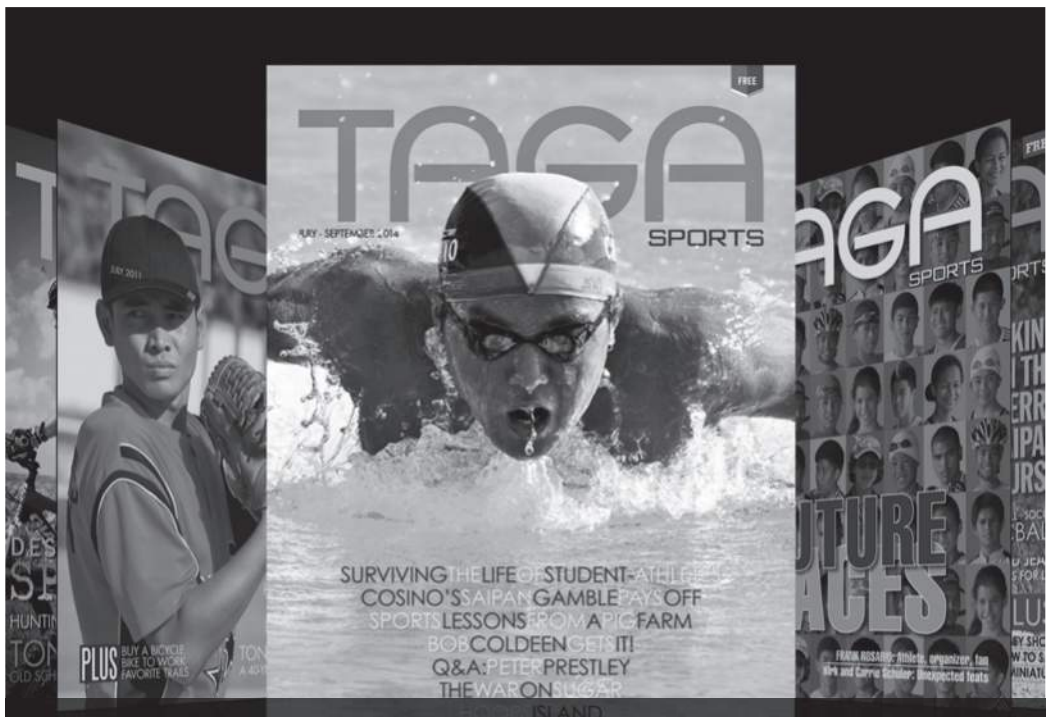

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Judge OKs record-setting $2B sale of Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Embattled Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling lost his attempt to block the $2 billion sale of the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.

In allowing the deal to go forward, Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas sided Monday with Sterling's estranged wife, Shelly Sterling, who negotiated the record sale after the NBA banned the 80-year-old billionaire for making offensive remarks about blacks.

Shelly Sterling sought the probate judge's approval to ink the deal after taking over the family trust that owns the team because doctors found Donald Sterling had signs of Alzheimer's disease and couldn't manage his affairs.

The judge said Shelly Sterling had negotiated a good deal and the removal of her husband as a co-trustee was in good faith and not part of a secret plan to seize the team.

Shelly Sterling hugged her lawyer and wept after the judge explained his ruling from the bench.

"I can't believe it's over," she said. "This is the best thing."

An unusual provision of the ruling bars Donald Sterling from seeking a court-ordered delay of the sale as he appeals. His lawyers plan to seek permission from an appellate court to file an appeal.

Sterling was not in court for the ruling. Bobby Samini, one of his lawyers, said Sterling reacted calmly to the news and told his lawyers they had to keep battling on other fronts. Sterling testified during the case that he would fight the NBA until his death.

With lawsuits pending in state and federal courts, the ruling in Los Angeles County Superior Court is unlikely to put an end to the bizarre saga that began in April when a recording surfaced of Sterling scolding his young girlfriend for bringing black men to Clippers games.

The NBA moved quickly to ban Sterling for life and fined him $2.5 million.

Sterling was apologetic after the audio recording went viral, but his mea culpa backfired when he criticized Lakers great Magic Johnson, who had been photographed with Sterling's girlfriend, as a bad role model for kids because he had HIV. Sterling was roundly condemned from locker rooms to the Oval Office, where President Barack Obama called Sterling's remarks "incredibly offensive racist statements."

AP

In this Nov. 12, 2010, file photo, Shelly Sterling sits with her husband, Donald Sterling, during the Los Angeles Clippers' NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Los Angeles.

With the NBA threatening to seize the team and auction it, Sterling initially gave his wife of 58 years permission to negotiate a sale but then refused to sign the $2 billion Ballmer deal, which would be a record price for an NBA team. He said he would sue the league instead and then revoked the trust, which his lawyers said effectively killed the deal.

The nonjury trial held over several weeks focused mainly on whether Shelly Sterling properly removed her husband as a trustee and whether her actions carried any weight after he revoked the trust.

Donald Sterling claimed his wife had deceived him about the medical exams. His lawyers argued Monday that Shelly Sterling's lawyers were in cahoots with the doctors who examined him and that his wife conspired with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver to remove him from the trust.

"There's no evidence, I'll repeat that as loudly as you allow," attorney Maxwell Blecher said during closing argument, his voice rising. "There's no evidence that Mr. Sterling was incapable of carrying out his duties as a co-trustee."

Levanas said there was no credible evidence that Sterling was defrauded.

Blecher said he was deeply disappointed in the judge's legal analysis.

The ruling Monday was tentative until the judge files it in writing.

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement that the league was pleased and looked forward to the transaction closing as soon as possible.

At the conclusion of his lengthy ruling, Levanas envisioned what might happen if Donald Sterling remained the owner.

Citing testimony of Clippers interim CEO Richard Parsons, he said the team would go into a "death spiral." Sponsors would withdraw, players would quit and coach Doc Rivers would leave.

"The Clippers would suffer a massive loss of value if the team survived at all," Levanas said.

The judge was adamant that a team owned by Donald Sterling would not draw a price anywhere near the "stunning" $2 billion pledged by Ballmer. Sterling, a lawyer who made a fortune as a landlord, bought the team in 1981 for $12 million.

"Ballmer paid an amazing price that can't be explained by the market," he said.

On the witness stand, Shelly Sterling was more credible than her husband, who was more evasive, gave inconsistent answers and presented wild fluctuations of damage estimates, Levanas said.

He noted that the couple presented genuine professions of love for each other despite Donald Sterling's outburst calling his wife a "pig" after she testified.

LA Lakers finally confirm Byron Scott is new coach

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers confirmed Byron Scott is their new coach Monday night.

The Lakers finally made the long-anticipated announcement in a news release. Scott will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday at the Lakers' training complex.

Scott told reporters last weekend he had been hired by the Lakers, who have been without a coach since Mike D'Antoni resigned April 30. Scott is the 25th head coach in the 16-time NBA champions' franchise history.

General manager Mitch Kupchak said he conducted "an extensive and thorough search" with owner Jim Buss.

"We're proud to welcome Byron back to the Lakers family as our next head coach," Kupchak said. "Byron has proven himself at the highest levels of the game as both a player and a coach in his almost 30 years of NBA experience. His leadership skills and track record for success make him the ideal person to lead this franchise forward."

Scott is 416-521 as a head coach for New Jersey, New Orleans and Cleveland, reaching two NBA Finals with the Nets. He has won three division titles, and he was the NBA's coach of the year in 2008.

Scott also was a shooting guard for the Lakers for 11 seasons, playing alongside Magic Johnson during the Showtime era. He was a teammate of Lakers star Kobe Bryant during his final NBA season, and Bryant has endorsed Scott for his new job.

"I am ecstatic to once again be a Laker and to have the opportunity to work alongside Mitch and the Buss family," Scott said. "I know firsthand what it takes to bring a championship to this city, and as someone who both grew up in L.A. and played the majority of my career here, I know how passionate and dedicated our fans are. I will give everything I have to fulfill the championship expectations that our supporters have for us, and that we have for ourselves."

Scott spent last season as an analyst on the Lakers' television network, watching their disintegration during a 55-loss season, the most in franchise history. Bryant played just six games last season.

The Lakers interviewed several coaching candidates over the past three months, including Lionel Hollins and George Karl. Scott has been widely considered the front-runner for the job since early summer, but Kupchak and Buss appeared to be more focused on the NBA draft and free agency than their current team's leadership.

Marketing agreement an obstacle in US bid for 2024

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—If Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco or Washington is picked to host the 2024 Olympics, the U.S. Olympic Committee will pay the price for winning. One of its first tasks will be to hand over millions in sponsorships to the victorious city's newly formed organizing committee.

It's one of those costly facts of life in the Olympics thanks to the Joint Marketing Program Agreement that a country's Olympic federation must sign when it puts a city up as a candidate to host the Games. It also played into the failures of New York and Chicago in the last two U.S. attempts to land the Olympics.

The last two American bids have included agreements that didn't conform with the International Olympic Committee's guidelines, which call for around 90 percent of the host federation's domestic sponsorship to be channeled to the new organizing committee. The USOC, not backed by any government funding, has balked at the terms because it would have trouble making up for the millions it gives away.

It would likely seek a different arrangement for a 2024 bid, as well.

"A lot of countries might say it's not an issue," said Jim Scherr, the CEO of the USOC when New York finished fourth in the 2012 bidding. "They know if the Olympic committee loses money, the government will step in and make up the difference. You put it on the government's tab and call it a day."

Not so in the United States. In meetings last week with leaders of the four potential bid cities, USOC leaders spent a good amount of time explaining the JMPA. The USOC will decide early next year whether to bid for 2024.

"I acknowledge it's been a contentious issue in the past, both with New York and Chicago," CEO Scott Blackmun said. "I can tell you we're working hard to change our relationship with each bid city. We want to work with them to develop a structure that makes sense for us and them."

Some form of the agreement has been in play since after the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, which were the first to truly cash in on the marketing power of the worldwide games. With fewer marketing rules in place, sponsors and the hosts ran into some awkward situations - for instance, film companies Kodak and Fuji wound up paying big bucks to different entities and ended up battling over the same Olympic ad space.

To avoid that, the IOC made the host country's Olympic committee sign over the vast majority of its sponsorships to the organizing committee that forms when a city is awarded the Olympics. London's domestic sponsorship program for the 2012 Games produced $1.15 billion.

IOC marketing director Timo Lumme says there's some flexibility built into the program, so the USOC might not have to give away as much as some other countries, but the principle of the concept stays true.

"If you're Company X, you don't want, in the morning, a person from the organizing committee coming to you selling their wares, then in the afternoon someone from the U.S. team coming and doing the same thing," Lumme said.

Most Olympic committees have been quick to sign the JMPA, knowing the surge in interest sparked by a home Olympics will lure new sponsors and, more importantly, that their national governments will step in to make up the difference.

But in the United States, the sponsorship market is considered close to tapped out and the federal government has a long history of not providing funding to the USOC.

That puts the USOC in a spot of not having any clear path to make up the sponsorship shortfall, which accounts for between 20 and 30 percent of its revenues ($168 million last year)—a good portion of which is used to fund Olympic athletes.

Diamondbacks edge slumping Reds in 15th

CINCINNATI (AP)—As the game went one with no hint that either team was capable of scoring, Arizona catcher Miguel Montero became philosophical.

''I knew eventually it was going to go one way or the other,'' he said.

Whenever it goes really long, the Diamondbacks always win.

Nick Ahmed's RBI single with two outs in the 15th inning sent the Diamondbacks to a 2-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday night and kept their franchise perfect when the innings pile up.

Arizona is 13-0 all-time in games of at least 15 innings.

''You get into a game like this, everybody is trying to end it,'' manager Kirk Gibson said. ''You tell yourself not to do it, but that's the reality of it.''

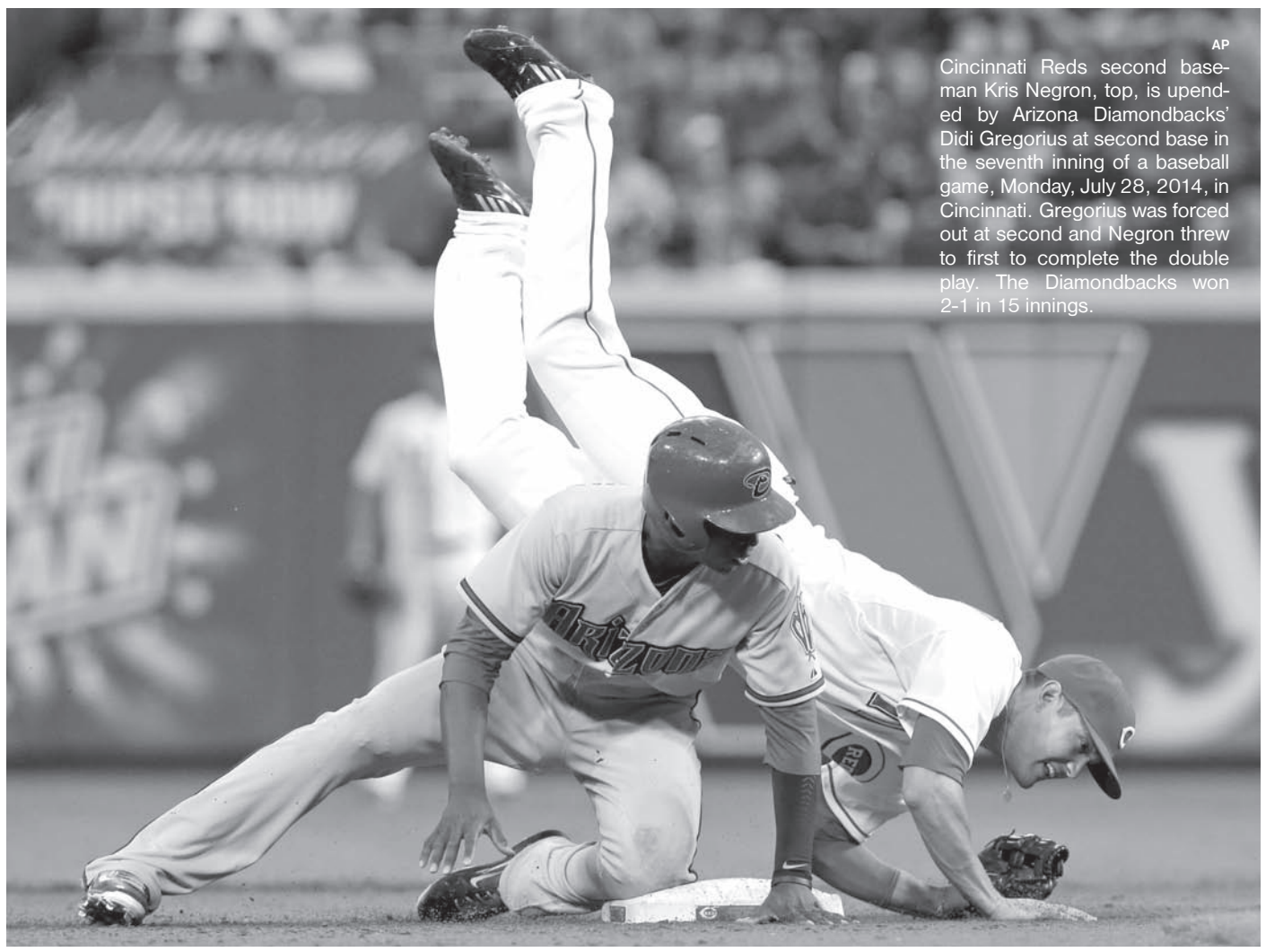
Ahmed's single off J.J. Hoover (1-8) gave the Reds their ninth loss in 10 games since the All-Star break, a slump that has dropped them below .500 for the first time since June 21. The offense has been the problem, scoring only 17 runs in those 10 games, by far the fewest in the majors.

''Just nothing was falling in for either team, really,'' Ahmed said.

Oliver Perez (1-1) gave up a hit and a walk in two innings. Addison Reed got his 25th save in 30 chances.

Cincinnati's Aroldis Chapman fanned the side in the ninth, extending his major league record for a reliever to 44 consecutive games with at least one strikeout. One of his pitches was clocked at 104 mph.

Devin Mesoraco led off the second with his 17th homer off rookie Chase Anderson, ending a streak of three straight games at Great American without a homer - the longest in the ballpark's 12 seasons. Miguel Montero singled home the tying run in the fourth off Homer Bailey, who gave up five hits in eight innings.



AP

Cincinnati Reds second baseman Kris Negron, top, is upended by Arizona Diamondbacks' Didi Gregorius at second base in the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 28, 2014, in Cincinnati. Gregorius was forced out at second and Negron threw to first to complete the double play. The Diamondbacks won 2-1 in 15 innings.

Rangers 4, Yankees 2

In Arlington, Texas, Yu Darvish struck out eight in seven innings for his 10th victory and J.P. Arencibia had a tiebreaking two-run single for the Texas Rangers in a 4-2 victory over the New York Yankees on Monday night.

Darvish (10-6) shouted out and pumped his fist after his final strikeout, when Brian McCann swung and missed to end the seventh with two runners on base.

Brett Gardner homered twice and Derek Jeter had three hits — to pass Carl Yastrzemski on the career hits list — off the All-Star right-hander, who threw 80 of his 108 pitches for strikes five days after losing a rain-shortened game in New York.

David Phelps (5-5) lost for the first time in nine starts, allowing four runs and eight hits over six innings. The right-hander, like Darvish, was credited with a complete game last Wednesday in the 2-1 Yankees victory that didn't resume after rain in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Blue Jays 14, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Melky Cabrera homered from both sides of the plate and drove in five runs and R.A. Dickey pithed three-hit ball for seven innings as Toronto romped past Boston.

The Blue Jays won for the sixth time in seven games while the Red Sox lost one day after stopping a five-game slide that began in Toronto with three losses.

Cabrera homered into Boston's bullpen in right field after Jose Reyes led off the game with a walk. Cabrera made it 9-0 in a nine-run sixth with a three-run homer to left, his 14th of the season.

Ryan Goins had four hits and four RBIs for Toronto.

Dickey (9-10) had a season-high 10 strikeouts, allowed a run and walked one as he won for the third time in 10 starts. But against the Red Sox he's 3-0 with 21 strikeouts and two walks this season.

Clay Buchholz (5-7) left the game after allowing the first three batters to reach in the sixth.

Braves 2, Padres 0

In Atlanta, Ervin Santana threw eight scoreless innings, Evan Gattis homered for the first time in more than a month and Atlanta blanked San Diego.

Santana (10-6) allowed just five hits and matched his career high with 11 strikeouts. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for his 32nd save.

Gattis led off the seventh with a drive into the left-field seats off Jason Lane (0-1), a 37-year-old former outfielder making his first big league start as a pitcher.

Called up from Triple-A to fill in for ailing Ian Kennedy, Lane shut down the Braves through six innings. But when the left-hander hung an 0-1 breaking pitch, Gattis hit his 17th homer of the season and first since June 18, before he went on the disabled list for nearly three weeks with a bulging disk in his back.

Marlins 7, Nationals 6

In Miami, Jeff Baker hit a two-out RBI single to cap a four-run rally in the ninth inning as Miami won its fifth straight.

The Marlins trailed 6-1 in the seventh and Washington's Rafael Soriano (2-1), who earned his 200th career save Sunday, took the mound in the ninth with a 6-3 lead and blew a save for the fourth time this season

Casey McGehee led off with a four-pitch walk, Garrett Jones doubled and Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI single. Jarrod Saltalamacchia's sacrifice fly made it 6-5, and a wild pitch advanced Ozuna to second base.

Adeiny Hechavarria ended an 11-pitch at-bat with a tying triple and pinch-hitter Donovan Solano was hit by a pitch.

Left-hander Jerry Blevins replaced Soriano and struck out Christian Yelich. Baker, who entered in the eighth, then lined a hit over left fielder Bryce Harper that hit the base of the fence.

Mike Dunn (8-5) pitched a perfect ninth.

Astros 7, Athletics 3

In Houston, Chris Carter, Jason Castro, Marc Krauss and Matt Dominguez each hit a home run to help Houston snap a five-game skid.

Carter hit a monstrous three-run shot to center field in the third to give the Astros a lead, and Castro and Krauss went back-to-back in the sixth, with Castro's homer a two-run shot.

Krauss' homer found the upper deck in right field and chased A's starter Jesse Chavez (8-7). Two batters later, Dominguez sent a drive onto the railroad tracks in left field off reliever Dan Otero.

The last time Houston hit three home runs in an inning was June 5, 2013, against Baltimore.

Brett Oberholtzer (3-7) won for the first time since May 30, giving up three runs on eight hits with two strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings.

Cubs 4, Rockies 1

In Chicago, Tsuyoshi Wada earned his first big league win, pitching seven strong innings to lead the Cubs past Colorado.

Anthony Rizzo drove in two runs to back Wada (1-1), who was making his third career start.

Wada cut through the Colorado lineup, allowing one run and five hits. It was a far cry from his last outing, when he lasted four innings and gave up five runs in a loss to San Diego.

The sole blemish on Wada's performance came in the sixth when the Rockies got three hits, capped by Nolan Arenado's RBI single.

Pedro Strop worked out of a jam in the eighth inning and Hector Rondon worked a perfect ninth for his 13th save in 16 chances.

Yohan Flande (0-3) struck out eight in 6 2-3 innings.

Mets 7, Philies 1

In New York, Travis d'Arnaud went 3 for 4 with a three-run homer and Bartolo Colon made his second straight strong start for the Mets.

D'Arnaud hit one of three doubles for the Mets as they took a 4-0 lead in the first. Then the catcher's seventh home run of the season broke the game open in the fifth.

The 41-year-old Colon (10-8) retired the first 20 batters in his last outing Wednesday against Seattle, eventually allowing two runs on three hits in 7 1-3 innings in a 3-2 win. He wasn't as dominant Monday. But staked to a big lead, he was never in much trouble either, scattering 10 hits over 7 2-3 innings.

A.J. Burnett (6-10), like Colon a veteran who could attract suitors before Thursday's trade deadline, gave up seven runs and eight hits in five innigns.

Lions postpone talks with Suh until after season

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Lions are postponing contract talks with All-Pro defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh until after the season.

Suh is entering the final season of his contract, and team president Tom Lewand and general manager Martin Mayhew said before practice Monday that negotiations are being tabled. Lewand and Mayhew both expressed optimism that a deal can eventually be reached.

"He's told me he wants to be here. I have a good relationship with him,'' Mayhew said. ''I know I want him to be here. I don't know what else to tell you.''

Suh talked to reporters after practice, but he didn't want to discuss his contract situation.

''It won't be a distraction to me,'' Suh said. ''I'm just out here playing football and having fun.''

Lewand said Detroit's salary-cap situation isn't the reason for the delay in an agreement.

If the two sides can't reach a deal after the season, the Lions could still keep Suh by using their franchise tag on him.

''I wouldn't close the door on that,'' Mayhew said. ''Every year, we have people concerned about our ability to function under the salary cap, and thus far we've been able to go out in free agency every year and add to our team, make our team better. ... I think the cap is going to go up next year, and probably the year after that too.''

The Lions selected Suh with the second overall pick in 2010, and he has 27 1/2 sacks in his four pro seasons.

''We have a high degree of confidence that we can work out something that'll be mutually satisfactory at the right time, and the goal hasn't changed in the least. But the timing is such that we think the focus needs to be on the field, starting today,'' Lewand said. ''There's no adversarial nature to this decision. ... I think this is what's right for everybody.''

Coach Jim Caldwell, in his first season with the Lions, said he's optimistic a deal will be reached.

''I've been around too many times where I've seen them all get done,'' Caldwell said. ''I think in this particular case, it won't be any different.''

Suh did say he hopes teammates won't have to keep answering questions about his future.

''I'm not going to talk about my contract. We're going to continue to talk about football,'' Suh said. ''I would ask you guys not to bother my teammates about something that they have nothing involved in. For sure, definitely don't want them to have to answer any questions about it.''

SSFM beats Flip Top, secures second victory in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

SSFM canned crucial free throws in the homestretch to withstand Flip Top's rally, 110-103, in the curtain-raiser in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was second in a row for SSFM, which prevailed in its debut game against Mawati last week, 65-62, while Flip Top dropped its opener.

DJ Ong sizzled for 33 points in SSFM's second victory. He nailed 11 of his total markers in the fourth quarter, including six free throws in the closing minutes of the match to thwart Flip Top. Ong and company led by as much as 16 points in the third period, 80-64, but Jun Estolas and Perry Inos fought back for Flip Top late in the third and in the fourth to cut the deficit to single digit. With Flip Top threatening, Ong countered, while Cecilio Bisana and Ferick Aguon also scored basket in streaks in the fourth to keep SSFM's safe distance. Aguon drilled five straight points early in the fourth, while Bisana fired four of SSFM's last eight points and had six in the payoff canto.

SSFM took the win despite having a short-handed lineup. SSFM had only six players available for the match and all of them broke into double figures. Ed Echavez contributed 11, eight of them came in the first frame that ended with SSFM ahead, 30-23. Ong also recorded eight points in the first period.

Bisana, who was held to one field goal in the first quarter, started the second with three straight baskets and finished with eight in that period, teaming up with Ong in giving SSFM a 12-point halftime lead, 59-47.

Ong and Bisana continued anchoring SSFM's offense in the third period, exchanging baskets with Estolas and Inos. The SSFM duo combined for 15 points in the third and kept going in the fourth, drilling timely baskets in the end to spoil Flip Top's debut.

In the second game, Gwap Gang also reached past the century mark en route to a 105-52 demolition of Mawati.

It was the second time Gwap Gang recorded at least 100 points, as it pounded Ghasias Brothers in its first assignment last week, 100-73.

Gwap Gang blew the game wide open in the third, turning a 40-28 advantage to a huge 72-37 lead. Five Gwap Gang players scored at least four points each in the breakaway, while Mawati made only four field goals in the third-quarter meltdown.

Prince Factor led Gwap Gang's lopsided win, tallying 24 points. Big man Kelvin Fitial added 18, while fellow frontliner Erick Dela Rosa chipped in 17. Shane Deleon Guerrero and Jared Ano had 12 and 11 markers, respectively, for Gwap Gang, while Rocyl Ritual was the lone double figure scorer for the winless Mawati with his 25 points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM's Ferick Aguon goes up for an acrobatic shot after slipping past Flip Top defenders during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

First Game

SSFM 110–Ong 33, Bisana 24, Aguon15, Echavez 11, Tobias 11, Espinosa 10.

Flip Top 103–J. Estolas 34, Inos 25, B. Estolas 18, Estanislao 8, Isip 4, Toribio 2, Manangan 2, Jacob 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-23, 59-47, 84-76, 110-103.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 105 – Factor 24, Fitial 18, Dela Rosa 17, Deleon Guerrero 12, Ano 11, Kwon 8.

Mawati 52–Ritual 25, Reyes 9, Enriquez 6, Gontar 5, Serrano 4, Pena 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-13, 40-28, 72-37, 105-52.

CNMI

From Page 28

At bat, Jones was 1-for-2 and scored one of the four late runs for the CNMI. Reyes recorded two runs off a 2-for-5 performance at the plate, while Omar, Tom Camacho, and Ben Jones had two RBIs each. Omar was perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3 and scored one run, while Ben Jones was 2-for-5, and Tom Camacho hit 2-for-4.

Rico Castro, Brian Balajadia, Matthew Muna, Shon Muna Jr. , and Salasalso nailed two RBIs apiece for Guam, which got crucial runs at the top of the ninth off the CNMI's fielding booboos. Ryan Martinez added only one RBI, but was 3-for-5 at bat and scored four times. Jared Palomo scored the lone homer in the game at the top of the fifth.

Meanwhile, deposed champion Palau joined Guam and the CNMI in the medal podium after beating Pohnpei in the consolation match.

With Guam getting the gold it baseball, it zeroed it on the overall championships in the Games after boosting its medal haul to 38 golds, 26 silvers, and 11 bronze. Pohnpei is in second place with its 34-42-34 tally, while Palau rounds out the Top 3 with its 33-26-34. The CNMI (14-15-5) is still in sixth place after the silver medal in baseball.

ATHLETICS

From Page 28

"They did very well in Pohnpei. They brought home medals and broke a couple of records," Tebuteb said.

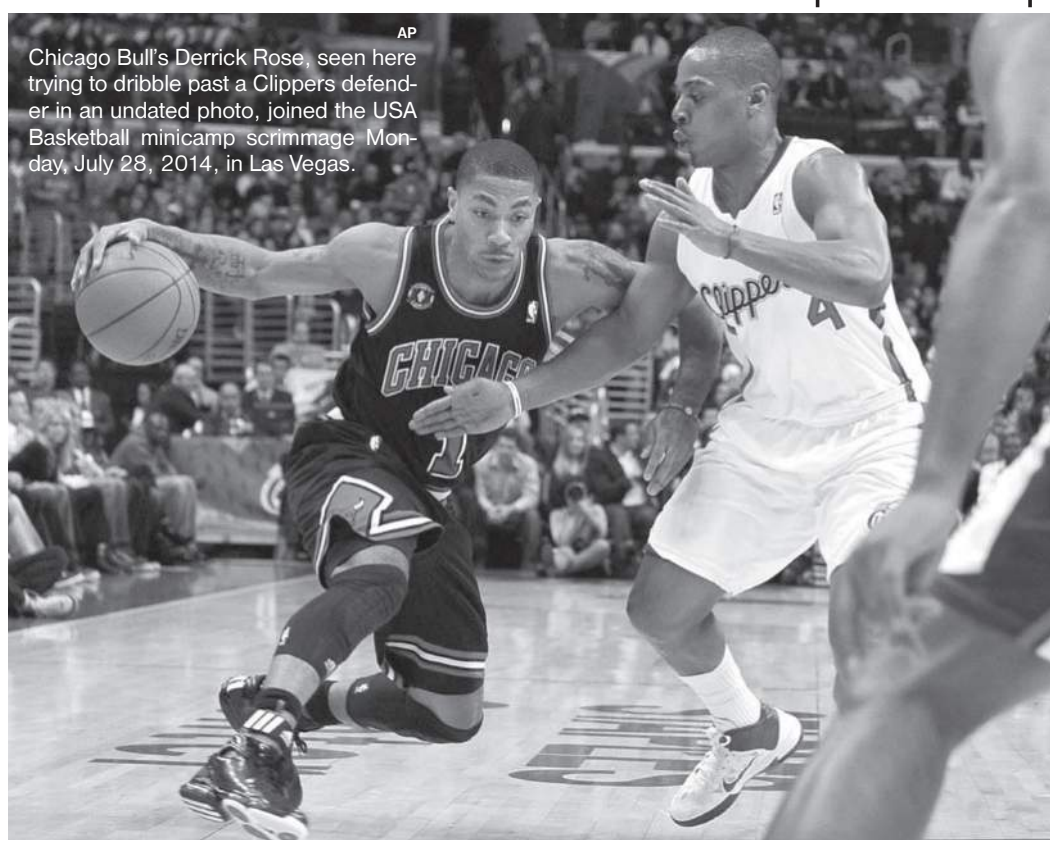
Multi-sports athlete Rachel Abrams shattered both the CNMI and Micronesian records in the 200m run after clocking in a field-best 26.29 seconds in the finale. She eclipsed the 26.41 seconds fellow CNMI athlete Yvonne Bennett registered during the 2010 Micro Games in Palau. Abrams got two other golds in Pohnpei with her second coming from 100m hurdles (17.50 second) and the third in the high jump (1.38m). She also helped the CNMI win a silver medal in the 4x100m relay and finished second in the 100m run.

Other gold medalists for the CNMI were mother and daughter Dolores and Lia Rangamar and Beo Ngirchongor. Dolores topped the discus throw (26.42m), beating Lia (26.42). The younger Rangamar got her gold in the javelin throw (34.63m). Beo earned two gold medals, winning the 400m hurdles and 400m run. His 52.74 seconds in the 400m run broke the CNMI national mark (53 seconds) Tony Ichiou registered in the 1994 Micro Games in Guam.

For its silver medals, the CNMI drew two from Micro Games first timer Jesse James (half marathon and 1,500m) and one each from Friendly Joy Pena and Jaynard White (women's and men's high jump), and Orrin Pharmin (octathlon).

Majority of the team returned to Saipan last Monday night. Coach Elias Rangamar, his wife and daughter, and Abrams are still in Pohnpei. Lia and Abrams also played for the women's basketball team, which was scheduled to duel Pohnpei in the battle for the bronze medal yesterday.

Rose returns as US basketball team opens camp



AP

Chicago Bull's Derrick Rose, seen here trying to dribble past a Clippers defender in an undated photo, joined the USA Basketball minicamp scrimmage Monday, July 28, 2014, in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Derrick Rose says he feels old.

The 25-year-old point guard's rigorous play on Monday during the U.S. basketball team's first practice dictated otherwise.

"I was joking with Kyle Korver, I told him `I'm getting old, man. I've got to stretch, I've got to use rollers and stuff.' He looked at me kind of weird," Rose said laughingly. "But I feel a lot more mature. I've been preparing for this for a long time. I've dedicated my whole summer to this. I think I've sacrificed a lot for this moment."

Rose, the Chicago Bulls star who is coming off two knee injuries that kept him out for much of the last two seasons, said he played roughly nine minutes of the team's scrimmage during a two-hour practice. He added he was excited about how he felt physically.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski was elated with Rose's play, saying he was most impressed with his defensive pressure and tenaciousness.

"I think Derrick was a great excitement for us, because you hear about how he's worked out, but to see him today, I mean, he put it all out," Krzyzewski said. "He was playing to exhaustion. That was a big plus for today, to see him. I was pleased that he didn't hold anything back. He played his butt off."

Rose, who played just 10 games last season before his season was ended by a torn meniscus in his right knee, said he's spent much of the summer in Chicago working out, other than a few promotional days in Los Angeles for adidas. He was happy to be back on the court, playing against and alongside other NBA players.

"I work out a couple hours a day (and) I know how much work I've put into this; I'm just excited to be here," Rose said. "Going out there competing and having fun, to tell you the truth, just having fun, I think that's the key."

The 2011 MVP also said he's felt no pressure to prove himself to anyone, and isn't trying to play outside the realm he was accustomed to before his initial injury.

"I think last year I was trying to (prove myself) and you see the outcome of that - that wasn't my game," said Rose, who is expected to return next season. "This time around, I know my game and I know exactly what I need to do when I go out there."

Said Krzyzewski: "Derrick is one of the great players I've had an opportunity to coach. He's an elite player in the world and he's coming off of some really unbelievably bad setbacks. The fact is, he hasn't been defeated mentally; instead he's gotten stronger and he'll continue to grow as a player."

Though he said he was "really surprised" to see Rose play as well as he did, USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo called Monday's first practice a great start for Rose, as it gave everyone an indication the three-time All-Star is ready to play a high-caliber level for the men's national team and Chicago.

"It was very exciting to see Derrick back on the court," Colangelo said. "I expected him to be a little bit more rusty than he was and so that's big news. That's big news for us, that's big news for Chicago Bulls fans."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	58	46	.558	—
Toronto	57	50	.533	2½
New York	54	51	.514	4½
Tampa Bay	52	54	.491	7
Boston	48	58	.453	11

Central Division

Detroit	57	45	.559	—
Kansas City	53	51	.510	5
Cleveland	52	53	.495	6½
Chicago	51	55	.481	8
Minnesota	47	57	.452	11

West Division

Oakland	65	40	.619	—
Los Angeles	63	41	.606	1½
Seattle	54	51	.514	11
Houston	43	63	.406	22½
Texas	42	64	.396	23½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	57	46	.553	—
Atlanta	58	48	.547	½
Miami	52	53	.495	6
New York	51	55	.481	7½
Philadelphia	46	60	.434	12½

Central Division

Milwaukee	59	48	.551	—
St. Louis	56	48	.538	1½
Pittsburgh	56	49	.533	2
Cincinnati	52	53	.495	6
Chicago	43	61	.413	14½

West Division

Los Angeles	59	47	.557	—
San Francisco	57	49	.538	2
San Diego	46	59	.438	12½
Arizona	46	60	.434	13
Colorado	43	62	.410	15½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 NMBA Youth Badminton Summer Camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A participant in the 2014 NMBA Youth Badminton Summer Camp gets ready to serve while his teammate stays back during one of the event's sessions this month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Participants cheer on fellow players.

Volunteer Rodwealth Espana gives instructions to participants before starting the drills.

Participants pose for a photo while waiting for their turn to play.

A male participant goes for a strong shot.

A female participant attempts to hit the shuttlecock.

Janelle Pangilinan, left, scores the game, while Deether Edralin serves as umpire of the game.

A player lets go of a serve.

Two players wait for the service from their opponents.

A male participant enjoys a scrimmage.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI loses gold medal match vs Guam

UNITED YOUTH MEDIA

Players and officials of the CNMI Baseball Team pose with their silver medal after losing to Guam, 6-14, in the finals yesterday during the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI settled for another bridesmaid finish in the baseball competition after falling to Guam, 6-14, in the gold medal game in the 8th Micronesian Games yesterday at the Daini Field in Pohnpei.

The Commonwealth bets, who also placed second to host Palau in the 2010 Micro Games, trailed early and fell short in their comeback bid in the last three innings to hand Guam the gold medal.

Guam gained control of the match at the top of the second inning, scoring five runs and after the CNMI got two runs backs at the bottom, the eventual champion answered with three runs at the top of the third for an 8-2 advantage.

John Salas gave Guam its first run off a fielder's choice, while Pollycard Luther registered the second run off an error from CNMI shortstop Jared Sablan. Salas then notched his second run off Greg Iskawa's passed ball, as Guam's top of the order started its second trip at bat for a 3-0 lead. Guam's two other runs at the top of the second came off an RBI walk against CNMI relief pitcher Peter Lieto and a sacrifice fly from Ryan Martinez.

At the bottom second, Tyrone Omar teamed up with leadoff batter Rocco Reyes in putting the CNMI on the board, Reyes, who moved to first off a miscue from Luther at shortstop, advanced to second off a wild pitch and was brought to third by Tom Camacho's single to rightfield before Omar's base hit to leftfield brought him home. Camacho later stole home to cut the deficit to two and the CNMI had a chance to move closer with Omar making it to third and Joshua Jones stealing second, but bungled the opportunity when Jared Sablan flied out to centerfield.

Guam got back the two runs and saved one each at the top of the third and fifth for the seven-run lead, which it kept after shutting out the CNMI in the next four innings. After the four-inning spell, the CNMI got into the board in the next two, firing one run in the seventh and three in the eighth to threaten Guam, 6-10. However, Guam went for a strong finish, collecting four runs at the top of the ninth and and shut the door on the CNMI in the last inning.

John Pangelinan towed Guam to the gold medal win, as he pitched in no-relief in nine innings and though he gave up 14 hits and six earned runs, he managed to strike out 10 CNMI batters. The Commonwealth used five different pitchers to neutralize Guam, but to no avail. Roy Celis was the third one, followed by Joseph Palacios, and closer Vince Cepeda. Interestingly, Joshua Jones did not pitch in the gold medal match. A message to statistician AJ Murig asking why Jones was missing on the mound has yet to be returned at press time last night.

See CNMI on Page 26

Athletics team's consistency hailed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb lauded the CNMI Athletic Team for its strong showing in the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

The CNMI bets in the athletics competition in Pohnpei brought home 15 medals—seven golds and eight silvers—living up to its lofty billing as the consistent medal contributor to the Commonwealth in the last three editions of the Games. In the 2006 Micronesian Games, which Saipan hosted, the track and field group also hauled 15 medals (three golds, seven silvers, and five bronzes) and then in the Palau-hosted competition in 2010, the team collected 25 medals (13 golds, five silvers, and seven bronzes) to rule the tournament.

"For the past three editions of the Micronesian Games, our athletics team has been a force. We, in the NMA, are very proud of the athletes, coaches, their supportive parents, and volunteers," Tebuteb said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Tebuteb also credited the recent success of the team to the different businesses on the island

"We struggle to find funds to send our athletes in off-island tournaments, but we are able to survive because of the support of our business community and the people who help us in our fundraising efforts," Tebuteb added.

The NMA head said returning to Saipan with medals and several other accomplishments are the athletes and officials' way of saying thank you to their supporters.

See ATHLETICS on Page 26

KURT BARNES

Beo Ngirchongor, left, runs after getting the baton from Orrin Pharmin during the men's 4x100m relay race in the 8th Micronesian Game at the PNI Track and Field in Pohnpei last week.

8th Micronesian Games
MEDAL TALLY
As of 6pm July 23, 2014
Countries Gold Silver Bronze Total
Guam 38 26 11 75
Pohnpei 34 42 33 109
RMI 33 20 32 85
Palau 31 24 33 88
Yap 17 21 15 53
CNMI 14 15 5 34
Kosrae 4 3 11 18
Nauru 3 9 4 16
Chuuk 3 4 8 15
Kiribati 0 0 0 0
The Best 4G Experience Has Arrived! IT&E